

Progress Report for Open Data Governance Board – Q1 2019

Governance Activities

A meeting of the Public Bodies Working Group took place on 11 March. Aaron Roderick, ex lead on Open Government, Government of Canada gave a presentation on the Canadian Open Government Initiative. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled to take place on 10 June.

The Open Data Governance Board attended a design planning workshop facilitated by Accenture on 28 February. The key outputs from the workshop will form the Agenda for their meeting of 1 May.

Open Data Support

Urban Tide continues to roll out open data training. From September 2017 to April 2019, 377 public servants from 80 organisations availed of the open data training.

Open Data portal

The number of datasets available on the portal continues to grow and now totals approximately 9,100. There were 114 new datasets added to the portal in March and 37 in February. The number of visitors to the portal is approximately 16,500 per month.

Blog posts and news items are regularly added to the portal and regular tweets are also being sent.

A '[developer's corner](#)' has recently been added to the portal to encourage data reuse. Recent additions include [an API](#) linked from the Valuation Office to retrieve Valuation Office data in real time in relation to post-Revaluation Rating Authority areas.

Due to the decommissioning of the CSO StatCentral database, a number of one star (mostly PDF format) datasets will shortly be removed from the portal (30 April). As these are in the main high value datasets the Unit are working with the relevant public service organisations to get this data back linked to the portal in open format.

The first Open Data Newsletter has issued (25 April). It is intended that a newsletter will issue every 2 months.

Planned enhancements to the portal include a new homepage, an Irish language version and a number of 'Data Impact' stories. These are near completion.

Implementation of the Open Data Strategy

The Open Data Unit continues to support individual public service organisations on their open data activities. Some examples of progress across public service organisations were provided to the board in a separate note.

Open Data Engagement Fund

It is proposed to run the engagement fund again in 2019/2020 and to launch the fund in May (rather than September) so as to allow a longer lead in time for applicants to prepare their applications.

Events funded by the Engagement Fund, that are taking place over the coming weeks include a [3D hackathon](#) focusing on Building Information Management (BIM) data that takes place from 10-12 May, and an open data workshop for Information Professionals and Librarians that takes place on 30 May in Dublin.

Reuse of Public Service (PSI) Directive

The text of the Re-Use of Public Service Information Directive has now been approved by the European Parliament and is waiting to be agreed by the Council. The Directive has been renamed the

'Open Data and Reuse of Public Sector Information' which will place a greater emphasis on open data here and across the EU. Once approved by the Council, Ireland will have 2 years to enact the directive.

National and International Engagement

The Open Data Unit participated in the 'Love Data' week in Maynooth College in February where the portal was showcased and a presentation on open data was given to students.

A presentation on open data was also given at the GeoDirectory Conference in Croke Park on 28 March.

The Open Data Unit attended a workshop organised by colleagues in Northern Ireland on 26 February who were undergoing a public consultation on the relaunch of their Open Data Strategy.

The Open Data Unit presented at an EU workshops facilitated by Capgemini who are contracted by the European Commission to operate the European Open Data portal. This was on 'Data and Metadata quality' which took place in Hamburg on 25/26 March.

In association with Derilinx, the third Open Data Impact Series event '[How open data can help the Environment](#)' takes place on 29 April. Some 80 people are registered to attend.

A member of the Open Data Team is due to attend the joint meeting of the PSI Working Group and European Open Data portal that takes place in Luxembourg on 14/15 May.

A member of the Open Data Team will also attend an OECD meeting on Open Government in Paris on 6/7 June.

The Open Data Unit is currently completing the EU Landscaping Survey. The four main areas of focus are open data quality, measuring impact, the open data portal and our open data policy. The closing date for completion is Friday 17th May. The results will be published in late 2019.

Open Data Unit
April/May, 2019
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