An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe
Department of Public
Expenditure and Reform

Open Data Engagement Fund 2019/2020

What is Open Data?

The concept of Open Data is about making data held by public bodies available and easily accessible online for reuse and redistribution.

"A piece of data or content is open if anyone is free to use, reuse, and redistribute it- subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and/or share-alike" (Open Data Handbook[1])

Open Knowledge[2] defines Open as "anyone can freely access, use, modify, and share for any purpose (subject, at most, to requirements that preserve provenance and openness)."

Open Data Governance Board

The Open Data Governance Board (ODGB) provides strategic leadership and governance in line with best international practice in the area of Open Data. It is tasked with considering how to improve the capacity and capability of public bodies in implementing Open Data, and considering opportunities to maximise the value of public sector data and information for long-term economic, social and democratic benefits.

The ODGB's mandate allows it to consider how to ensure an Open Data Initiative that meets the needs of users and helps public bodies to plan their activities accordingly and encourage an ongoing collaborative process.

A key theme of the national Open Data Strategy 2017-2022 is stakeholder engagement and encouragement of the re-use of data on the national Open Data Portal www.data.gov.ie.

The Support Fund

One of the tools designed to support the Open Data Initiative is a competitive Open Data Engagement Fund (to the value of up to €30,000). The ODGB will consider applications for support towards improving the availability and usage of data on the national open data portal data.gov.ie. This could include but is not limited to the following:

a) Outreach, advocacy and engagement activities with and by public bodies to promote the release and/or usage of Open Data, e.g. seminars, workshops, discussion groups, conferences, etc.;

b) Innovative use of data published through data.gov.ie, either used on its own or in combination with other data sources. This category could include the building of apps, new products or services, holding competitions or hackathons, or the development of interactive visualisations to demonstrate data usage from data.gov.ie;

c) Special Category Project: Support for a project or research piece using specific datasets with a view to arriving at outcomes that could:
   - o support the creation of efficiencies within Public Bodies; or
   - o assist in government decision making; or

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[1] http://opendatahandbook.org/guide/en/what-is-open-data/
[2] http://opendefinition.org/

o demonstrate trends in social topics to help address current issues in the public interest or interesting and tangible insights into public policy issues (such as housing, environment, transport, etc.).

This could potentially include datasets from sources such as CSO, Oireachtas Service, Housing, Heritage, Revenue, Valuation Office, Education, spatial etc. available on the portal.

d) Carry out a project or study to look at the benefits that Ireland's Open Data Initiative has had to date. This could include projects or studies to assess the economic benefits of open data at a macro and/or micro economic levels, or an exercise or study looking at specific government data that has not been released as open data and assessing the potential benefits and costs of its release.

e) Carry out a project or study to look at the impact that Ireland's Open Data Initiative has had to date. This could include, for example, projects / studies to assess the environmental, social, political or economic impact of open data in Ireland.

Applicants are not restricted to applying in one category only and may apply under each category (a), (b) (c), (d) or (e). A separate application form should be completed for each category.

Selection Criteria

Applications can be made by any organisation or individual (in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland). This includes *inter alia* a public body, business, research body, university, school, college, civil society group. An individual applicant must have a reference from an organisation e. g. school/college, business etc. to show that they are bona fide.

A sub-committee of the ODGB will consider each application and decide on whether funding will be provided and if successful the level of same. The level of the applicant's own investment (e.g. time, funds) will be taken into account. In the selection process the decision of the sub-committee is final and no discussion shall be entered into with applicants.

Funding for successful applications will be allocated as follows:

Category	Activity/Project	Maximum Funding Allowed
(a) Raising Awareness of Open Data	Outreach and engagement activities to raise awareness regarding opportunities for Open Government Data re-use. This includes: ***Presentations / seminars / workshops / discussion groups / advocacy of open data / knowledge sharing and engagement on open data issues / holding conferences or other events.*** • To raise awareness among **civil society organisations** regarding open government data. • To promote the reuse of open government data among **businesses**. • To promote the reuse of open government data within **the public sector.** • To promote the reuse of open government data among the **citizens**.	€200 - €3000 depending on scale

(b) **Re-use of Government Open Data**	Innovative use of data to build apps, dashboards or new products or services to demonstrate the use that can be made of open data (either used on its own or in combination with other data sources). Apps can refer to mobile or web-based applications that use available open data to tackle a relevant issue. A. **Environmental Re-use** Water, air quality, noise level in cities, waste management, awareness raising and educate the public on recycling, etc. These can include but are not limited to: • Development of apps that enable more environmental-friendly transport systems in cities. • Development of apps that raise awareness on the noise levels in cities. • Development of apps that deal with waste management or recycling. • Civil society initiatives that are open data driven and aim to tackle a problem identified in the environmental field. B. **Social Re-use** Demonstrate trends in social topics to help address current issues and/or assist in decision making. These can include but are not limited to: • Civil society initiatives that are open data driven and aim to tackle a problem identified in the social field. • Use of open data to increase the inclusion of marginalised groups in society. • Use of open data to raise awareness concerning housing in Ireland. C. **Other Innovative Re-use** Applicants are encouraged to submit applications for the development of apps, dashboards or new products or services in any other area. All re-use applications will be assessed equally.	€1000 - €5000 depending on scale
	Holding of hackathons (facilitation, refreshments, venue etc.) to develop products / services promoting open data usage.	€500 - €3,000 depending on scale
	Development of interactive visualisations of data on the Portal for use as showcases.	€400 - €2,000
	Sponsorship of competitions (including prizes) – for example to come up with innovative ideas on how open data can be used to solve policy or real life issues of national importance i.e. housing, flooding , etc.	€3000 - €5000

(c)	**Special Category Project**	Support for a project or research to use open data from the portal (potentially in conjunction with other datasets) to arrive at outcomes that could increase **public service efficiency** and/or assist in **decision making**. These could include: o The creation of efficiencies within Public Bodies o Assist in government decision making; o Demonstrate trends in social topics to help address current issues in the public interest. o Interesting and tangible insights into public policy issues (such as housing, environment, transport, etc.).	Up to €5000
(d)	**Benefits of Open Data in Ireland**	Projects or studies, including post doctorate work, to assess the **benefits** of Open Data in Ireland. Support for projects / studies to assess the **economic benefits of open data** at macro and or micro economic levels in the Irish context**:** • Development of specific Irish use cases on the benefits that have arisen from data that has been released as Open Data; • To assess the economic benefits of open data for the public sector. • To assess the economic benefits of open data for SME's. • An exercise or study looking at specific government data that has not been released as open data and assessing the potential benefits and costs of its release.	Up to €5000
(e)	**Impact of Open Data**	Projects, studies, including post doctorate work, or engagement activities to assess the impact of open data in Ireland. • Studies or activities to assess or monitor the **environmental impact** of open data in an environmental field or a sub-dimension of a field. • Studies or activities to assess or monitor the **social impact,** the **political impact or** the **economic impact** of open data.	Up to €5000

A minimum funding allocation of €200 and maximum of €5000 will apply.

Applications must demonstrate real benefits / impact and set out how these would be measured.

In respect of (a), the activity must:

- represent value for money
- demonstrate clear audience benefits/impacts

In respect of (b), the activity must:

- use at least two datasets from the national open data portal data.gov.ie,
- represent value for money,

- use open data in a fresh or innovative way,
- represent the appropriate use of data and be user friendly,
- demonstrate clear audience benefits/impacts for example, social impact, usage by business/industry leading to economic impact, transparency, accountability impact.

In respect of (c), the activity must:

- use at least one dataset from the national portal data.gov.ie,
- demonstrate clear outcomes to assist in public service efficiency or public policy decision making.

In respect of (d), the activity must:

- demonstrate clear economic benefits of Ireland's Open Data Initiative at macro and/or micro economic level.

In respect of (e), the activity must:

- demonstrate clear impacts or value of Ireland's Open Data Initiative. The impact areas could include; government efficiency and operations, citizen empowerment, addressing specific societal challenges in health, education, environment etc. or some economic activities.

Requirements for Successful Applicants

- Successful applicants will be required to sign a Form of Undertaking prior to drawdown of the funding confirming that the funds will be used for the open data activity as outlined in their application and that it will represent value for money.
- Successful applicants will be required to submit a short progress report to the Open Data Unit in the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform on their project/activity by the 31st March, 2020.
- The activity/project for which the funds have been provided will be required to be completed by 30 June, 2020 after which a final report on the activity/project will be submitted to the Open Data Unit in the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform.
- Progress reports and final reports may be published via, for example, a blog on the Open Data portal.
- Details of the successful applicants and the amounts of funding received will be published on the open data portal.
- Funding will not be provided to any applicant, where a project previously funded via the Engagement Fund is not fully completed.
- Where applicable, successful applicants may be required to have their project developed into a use case for promotion of the open data initiative or other promotional activity as determined by the ODGB
- If the project does not proceed or does not progress to the satisfaction of the Open Data Unit, the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform retains the right to seek repayment of the funds.

Applications

An online application can be made via the Open Data portal or by completing and returning the Engagement Fund Application Form to opendata@per.gov.ie.   The closing date for applications is **Monday, 14th October, 2019 at 3pm**.