Progress Report on Open Data Initiative – Q4 2019

Highlights

- Ireland has achieved 1st place in the EU for Open Data Maturity for the third consecutive year.
- Over 10,000 datasets on the Portal
- Open Data Unit hosted a successful visit from our Polish counterparts in October
- €40,000 in funding awarded under the Engagement Fund
- Well attended Open Data Impact event on Supporting Arts, Heritage and Culture held on Oct. 23rd
- Successful Open Data Conference held on November 27th
- Two new members recruited to the ODGB, Prof. Declan O'Sullivan and Prof. Neil O'Hare

Governance

The next meeting of the Open Data Governance Board is scheduled for Thursday, 23 January, 2020, at 11am. A meeting of the Open Data Advisory Group took place on 20 November and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on 5 February. The focus of the Advisory Board meetings for 2020 will be on the determination of High Value Datasets as set out in the new Open Data and PSI Directive.

2 vacancies on the Open Data Governance Board were advertised in November on the stateboards.ie website. The 19 applications received were assessed by a selection committee and the 2 successful candidates were subsequently appointed to the Board by Minister of State Patrick O'Donovan.   These are Prof. Declan O'Sullivan, Trinity College and Prof. Neil O'Hare, UCD.

Open Data portal

A dashboard showing stats for the portal is available here. The number of datasets available on the portal now totals over 10,000. 578 new datasets were added in November and 59 in December. The number of visitors decreased from over 16,800 in November to 12,500 December (possibly due to the Christmas break).   Blog posts and news items continue to be regularly added to the portal and regular tweets are also being sent.   We plan to have a number of Open Data Impact Stories and a 'feedback on datasets feature' live on the portal in the coming weeks.

Implementation of the Open Data Strategy

The Open Data Unit continues to support individual public service organisations on their open data activities. Tusla linked over 500 of their performance metrics datasets to the national Open Data portal in November. Galway Co Co has now linked 64 datasets which is a welcome development and we are in the process of linking up with Clare County Council who have started to publish open data.

Open Data Support

To date, 545 public servants from 91 organisations have availed of the open data training. The contract with Urban Tide has been extended until Summer 2020.   There has been no drawdown so far from the framework for open data technical support and it is not intended to extend this further.

Open Data Engagement Fund

The 2019/2020 Open Data Engagement Fund closed for applications on 14 October and a Selection Committee comprising a subgroup of the Board (Martin Quigley, Cianan Clancy and Bahareh Heravi) met on the 23rd to assess the applications. Due to the high quality of the applications received, an

additional €10,000 in funding was made available so a total of €40,000 was paid out in respect of 10 projects. Details are on the portal here.

Reuse of Public Service (PSI) Directive
Following the adoption of the Open Data and PSI Directive in July work has begun on the first Implementing Act under the Directive. Any datasets included in an Implementing Act will have to be made available for free and in machine readable format.   2 representatives from Ireland attended an EU Working Group meeting on the determination of HVDs which took place on 29 October.   A template has been made available by the Commission to assist in collating details of High Value Datasets and this has been circulated to a number of Public Service Organisations for completion.

National and International Engagement
The Open Data Team attended the Predict Conference on 1 October in addition to the Public Service Innovation Conference in Dublin Castle on 10 December where they hosted a stand to promote the open data portal and initiative.

The Open Data Team hosted a delegation from Poland over 2 days on 17/18 October who visited to learn from the Irish Open Data experience.

The 4th Open Data Impact Series event entitled 'Open Data - Supporting Arts, Heritage and Culture' took place on Wednesday morning, 23rd October 2019 in the Tangent Venue, Trinity College, Dublin 2 and was well attended.   An overview of the Seminar is available here.

A member of the Open Data Team attended the joint meeting of the PSI Working Group and European Open Data portal in Luxembourg on 30 October.

The annual Open Data Conference took place on Wednesday, 27 November in the National Gallery of Ireland and was opened by Minister of State Patrick O'Donovan.   Some 130 public servants attended. The keynote address was given by Ms Jemi Lacle from the World Bank and other international speakers included Mr Ben Welby from the OECD and Ms. Heather Broomfield from the Norwegian Agency for Public Management and eGovernment.

The results of the 2019 EU Landscaping Survey were announced in December and Ireland retained its ranking of 1st place for the 3rd year consecutive year. The results and report are on the portal.

The Open Data Unit is awaiting the outcome of 2 applications for funding submitted under the 2019 CEF Telecom Public Open Data call. The first is in respect of the ODGB initiative 'Hale & Hearty Knowledge Base'. This project focuses on providing a comprehensive health & wellbeing knowledge base, which can be used for analysis, insights and action. This will involve the harmonisation and linking of data from many sources, including Local Authorities, the Central Statistics Office, and Healthcare Providers. The Unit is also supporting an application under the same fund by Slovenia called Smart Ecosystem, which will put in place an ecosystem of standardised data models & communication protocols/APIs to be used to facilitate the seamless exchange of data across EU borders.   A decision is expected to be made on the applications in March.

Open Data Unit
January 2020
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