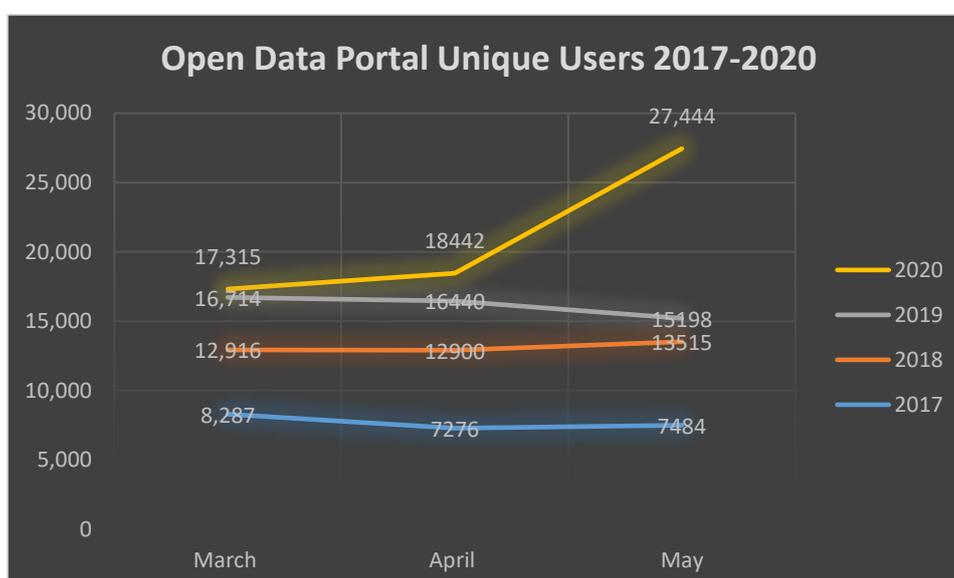


Progress Report on Open Data Initiative – to end May, 2020

Highlights

- Covid-19 Data added to the Portal on March 27th
- 80% increase in unique user views in May 2020 compared to May 2019
- €722,925 in funding allocated under the 2019 CEF Public Open Data call to the Hale & Hearty Knowledgebase Action
- 62 PS availed of Online Open Data Training on May 28 May.
- Open Data Unit presented at an EU webinar on 2nd June as a top performing country
- Open Covid-19 data Impact Series Webinar takes place on June 23rd
- Impact Stories implemented on the Portal
 - [Dublin Bikes](#)
 - [Hospital Waiting Lists](#)
- Appointment of SFI funded Researcher confirmed and will commence in September.



Governance

The last next meeting of the Open Data Advisory Group took place on 3rd June at 2pm. A number of new members have joined the Group representing Tusla, OGCI and Smart Cities so as to broaden the membership of the Group.

Open Data portal

A dashboard showing stats for the portal is available [here](#). The number of datasets available on the portal now totals 10,100. 59 new datasets were added in April and 45 in May. These include 3 Covid-19 datasets which are being hosted by the OSi on behalf of the HPSC. A fourth Covid 19 5 star linked high-quality dataset has also been provided to the portal. This was developed by teams at the ADAPT Centre, Trinity College and Ordnance Survey Ireland. The number of visitors to the portal increased to 18,488 in April and 27,510 in May which are the highest number to date. There has been significant interest in the Covid 19 and other health related datasets since the start of the current crisis. There has been an **80% increase** in unique user views in May 2020 compared to May 2019 Blog posts and news items continue to be regularly added to the portal.

Two [Open Data Impact Stories](#) which provide examples of current use of open data while also telling a story with the data and in doing so directly demonstrating the impact of open data have been added to the portal. A 'feedback on datasets feature' has also been added to the portal in recent weeks.

Implementation of the Open Data Strategy

In February, a communication issued from the Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform to all Sec Gens, Heads of Offices and CEOs of Local Authorities requesting an update made in their implementation of the Open Data Strategy as well as requesting them to identify any High Level Datasets within their public service organisation. These responses are currently being collated and the Open Data Unit will be following up on those returns that are outstanding.

The appointment of a researcher for a two year period, funded by SFI has been approved. This will enable research on measuring the impact of open data in Ireland. The researcher is due to commence in September.

Open Data Support

To date, over **650 public servants from 91 organisations** have availed of the open data training. The contract with Urban Tide has been extended until June 2021. 3 'Introduction to Open Data' online courses have been procured by the Open Data Unit, the first of which took place on 28th May and was fully subscribed. The second course is scheduled for 18 June 2020 and the 3rd course on 2nd July. We have commenced talks with the Office of Government Procurement to put a new framework in place w.e.f Summer 2021 and a business case in being put in place.

The Office of Government Procurement has separately agreed to replace the Open Data Technical Support Framework for Public Bodies that is due to expire in July this year. A sub group of the Open Data Advisory Group has been established to progress this. It is intended to broaden the scope of the framework to include support that may be needed to assist public bodies in complying with the new Open Data Directive.

Open Data Engagement Fund

It is intended to launch the 2020/2021 Open Data Engagement Fund in late June with a closing date of October. Projects funded under the 2019/2020 scheme have submitted progress reports setting out progress made to end March 2020. A number of projects have been delayed due to the Covid 19 crisis.

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. A number of Public Service Organisations have returned completed templates outlining details of their High Value Datasets. The Commission have begun direct contacts with national points of contact including Met Eireann, CSO and OSi.

National and International Engagement

The Spring edition of the Open Data newsletter issued in February, 2020. It is planned to issue the Summer newsletter this week.

The Open Data Unit hosted a stand to promote the Open Data portal in NUI Maynooth in February as part of Love Data week.

An online joint meeting of the PSI Working Group and European Open Data portal took place on 28 May. It is intended to launch the 2020 Landscaping Survey in the coming weeks. The deadline for initial response is 10 July with final validation of responses to be completed by 11 September. The results are due to be published in December 2020.

The Open Data Unit presented at an EU webinar on 2nd June for top performing countries (along with Cyprus and France) to share their insights and best practice in Open Data.

The 6th OECD Expert Group Meeting on Open Government Data took place online on 11th June and was attended by Laura and Rhoda. The Open Data Unit also attended an online pre-meeting on 13th May. The 2020 OECD Open Government Data Survey is due to be launched in September.

The next Open Data Impact Series Event will be held on 23rd June via a webinar. The proposed theme is Covid-19 and Open Data. The panel includes

- Karl Friston - Wellcome Principal Research Fellow and leading neuroscientist at University College London, currently working on COVID-19 modelling
- Neil O'Hare - Group Chief Information Officer (Children's Health Ireland) and Professor of Health Informatics, UCD
- Jeanne Holm - Senior Tech Advisor at the City of Los Angeles and evangelist for Open Data
Further details including registration details are available [here](#).

The 2020 annual Open Data Conference is provisionally scheduled to take place on 23rd October in the RCSI. It may be necessary to hold a webinar instead or to push this out to early 2021 to coincide with the planned Public Service Innovation week, this will be decided nearer the time.

The Open Data Unit has been successful in an application for funding submitted under the 2019 CEF Telecom Public Open Data call. This 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. Partners in the project include Fingal Co Co, the Department of Health, Central Statistics Office, Derilinx and IDCC.

Open Data Unit
June 2020
Ends/