

**Meeting of the Open Data Governance Board (ODGB) on Open Data  
Via Webinar - 14:00 pm, Thursday, 18 June, 2020**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Andrew O'Sullivan, An Garda Síochána, Dr. Adegboyega Ojo, Maynooth University, Cianán Clancy, Independent News and Media, Denis Parfenov, Open Knowledge Ireland, Bahareh Heravi, UCD, Neil O'Hare, UCD, Declan O'Sullivan, Trinity College Dublin, Daithí MacSíthigh, Queen's University, Belfast, Martin Quigley, Pobal, Paul Morrin, CSO.

**Apologies:** Seamus Murphy, HSBC and Barry Lowry, OGCIO

**Chair:** Dennis Jennings

**Secretariat:** Laura Mahoney, Rhoda Kerins, Marian Beakey, and Helena Campbell (DPER)

### Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. The Secretariat will publish same on the portal. Matters arising from the last meeting were discussed; a number were carried forward.

#### 1. Reconstitution of the Board

The Chair welcomed Paul Morrin, CSO who is new to the Board and Helena Campbell who is new to the Open Data Unit.

**Action (Secretariat):** Publish minutes of January meeting on the portal

#### 2. Progress Report to include update on PSI Directive and HVDs

A progress report for the year up to end May was circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting. This will be published on the portal. Some of the highlights included:

- 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 Public Servants availed of Online Open Data Training on May 28 May.
- Open Data Unit presented at an EU webinar on 2<sup>nd</sup> June as a top performing country
- Open Covid-19 data Impact Series Webinar takes place on June 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Impact Stories implemented on the Portal
  - [Dublin Bikes](#)
  - [Hospital Waiting Lists](#)
- Appointment of SFI funded Researcher confirmed and will commence in September to carry out research in assessing the impact and benefits of open data in Ireland.

**Action (Secretariat):**

- Publish Q12020 Progress Report on the portal

### 3. Update on Strategic objectives

#### Health App

- Governance structures for the Hale & Hearty Knowledgebase Action
- Resources

A paper on the proposed governance structure for the Hale & Hearty app project was circulated in advance of the meeting. This is a 2 year project and an update on progress will be given at each meeting of the Board. It was noted that the development of a prototype will take place in the second half of the project and the Board asked that they get a demonstration at the earliest opportunity. The timelines and project plan are to be circulated to the Board.

#### Innovation Hub

Cianan Clancy advised that he is working on a governance and funding structure and will provide an update and options at the next meeting.

#### Training Framework

The Open Data Unit are working with the Office of Government Procurement to develop a business case for a new Open Data Training framework to replace the existing one. It is hoped to broaden this beyond open data training to include other data related courses such as accredited courses in data management, data governance etc. Once the OGP agree to proceed with the framework a meeting of the training sub group will be convened to feed into the drafting of the RFT.

**Action (ODU):** Circulate project plan and timeline for Hale & Hearty app project to the Board  
**Action (Cianan Clancy):** Prepare governance and funding structure update for innovation hub  
**Action (Secretariat & training sub group):** ODU to link in with training sub group in the development of the training framework to ensure those course deficits flagged by the Board are included in the RFT spec.

### 4. Update on NORF Steering Group

Declan O'Sullivan is the Board's representative on the NORF Steering Group. He gave an update on the last meeting which was held in February. Phase 1 of the initiative is complete with the report published. The purpose of the Steering Group being constituted is to discuss Phase 2 which is the implementation phase. A full time coordinator to implement the initiative is being recruited. There is an 18 month target to achieve implementation which is ambitious. Declan is happy to flag any issues that the Board might want to be brought to the attention of the Steering Group. It was noted that a number of nominations had been made to the various working groups (Baharah Heravi and Dennis Parfanov had both volunteered) and a decision on the final composition of the working groups is outstanding.

### 5. Open Data Engagement Fund

The ODU advised that it is intended to launch the 2020/2021 fund before end June. A draft application form was circulated in advance of the meeting and the Open Data Unit asked for any obs. on same in particular in relation to the different categories of funding.

It was suggested that additional categories could be included as follows:

- A category using open Covid -19 related datasets on the portal (how data could be used to assist with the covid 19 (or future) pandemic);
- A domain specific category to complement the development of the Hale & Hearty app.
- Include funding of initiatives to create "data collaboratives" in specific domains, e.g. tackling the Resurgence of COVID-19. Further information is available at <https://datacollaboratives.org/>

The final form will be circulated to the Board for any final obs before launch.

**Action (Secretariat):** Consider suggested additional categories for inclusion in the Open Data Engagement Fund application form and circulate the final form before it is launched.

#### 4. Any other Business to include date of next meeting

- Risk Register. A draft risk register was presented by Rhoda Kerins at the meeting. This will be circulated to the Board for obs. and then finalised.
- Twitter Account. It was noted that following a review of the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform social media policy that the Open Data twitter account is to be disbanded. The Board are of the view that as open data is a specialised subject it needs to have a specialised twitter account; that not having an open data twitter account undermines the efforts of the Board and that it will impact on our EU rating. It was agreed that the Chair is to write a letter on behalf of the Board for the retention of the open data twitter account to the Department.
- Inputs into Policy recommendations for future EU Digital Government Policy. Gboyega Ojo advised that an online policy roundtable on “digital government and data” was held recently to discuss how data (big data, open data, use of data in the public sector) can play a role in the digital transformation of the public sector. This is in the context of the eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020 coming to an end and the Tallinn Declaration on eGovernment finishing in 2022. As part of the presentations and discussions, a number of questions were raised including: How can European policy help ensuring that governments reap the opportunities of data? How can European policy help governments at all levels use data in decision-making in the public sector? How can European policy encourage this? How can European policy encourage the reuse of data by governments? How can European policy help to ensure that data helps governments to provide user-centric digital public services and engage citizens? How can European policy help ensuring that governments use big data and open data to improve digital public services?

Gboyega is happy to forward the perspectives of the Open Data Unit on the above questions to colleagues at the Commission who are interested in such input.

#### Next meeting

Secretariat to circulate suggested dates for the next meeting in early September.

#### **Action (Secretariat):**

- Circulate Risk Register for the Open Data Initiative and take on board any amendments from the Board.

- Circulate doodle poll to determine dates for remaining meetings in 2020.
- (Chair):** Write letter of support for the retention of the open data twitter account to the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform
- (All)** Forward on any obs to Aboyega on policy recommendations for future EU Digital Government Policy

Open Data Unit

18 June, 2020

Ends/

Draft