UN Public Administration Programme

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

How to approach an OGD initiative?

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

DPADM/UNDESA, Guide on Lessons for Open Government Data Action Planning for Sustainable Development, publicadministration.un.org/en/ogd

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The context of Open Government Data (OGD)

Data enables more informed decision-making, increased efficiency, improved measurement and greater transparency.

In order for this potential to be realized, however, data must first be made available, in a usable way, to the wide variety of actors who need to collaborate to deliver development outcomes.

In many countries in the area of statistics, capacities are low, and costs might be beyond the reach of implementing agencies. Assistance from the international community may be instrumental to evolve towards OGD and improve statistical systems and availability of data.

Data of relevance accessible by everybody

OGD can only lead to achieve its desired objectives if it is available as **high-quality and usable data** that is relevant for different stakeholders, including:

- Government itself!
- Civil Society
- Intermediaries (CSOs, Media)
- Businesses
- Academia
- International Donor Organizations

Enabling environment for OGD

OGD initiatives should follow an 'Ecosystem Approach' which creates an enabling environment on *eight dimensions*:

1. Government commitment;
2. Policy/legal framework;
3. Institutional structures, responsibilities and government capabilities;
4. Government data management policies and procedures;
5. Demand for OGD;
6. Civic engagement and capabilities for OGD;
7. Funding of the OGD programme;
8. National technology and skill infrastructure.

Relevant groups or 'layers' within society

Successful and sustainable OGD initiatives build on three key groups or 'layers' within society:

- An influential and active civil society ('bottom-up layer') that provides grassroots pressure for change

- Civil servants and administrators who see OGD as a way to improve efficiency ('middle layer')

- High-level government leaders, including Heads of States and Ministers, who provide political commitment and support ('top-down layer').

Inclusive and participatory process

Creating an inclusive and participatory process for planning, designing, implementing and evaluating an OGD initiative is critical for ensuring:

- Its success and sustainability;

- Participation by all stakeholders (this requires creating opportunities for them to be engaged);

- Its ability to meet the needs of stakeholders and foster public acceptance.

Inclusive and participatory process (Cont'd)

Collaborative practices, including information sharing, participatory planning and decision-making, are useful routes to creating initiatives and partnerships for attaining shared goals.

This does not mean that governments give up control. It is about engaging people, communities and other stakeholders, early and often, to take into account their diverse views.

Thank you!

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OGD Project and OGDCE Guidelines
publicadministration.un.org/en/ogd