



OGD strategy for sustainable development

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

Content

- The importance of OGD for sustainable development
- Different approaches to OGD based on specific goals
- Setting priorities and defining actions

OGD & sustainable development

Open Government Data can be a resource and supporting element for sustainable development.



Establish a long term vision

Firstly, it is important to design an **OGD strategy** to establish a long term vision all stakeholders agree on:

- The participatory development of this strategy will help to encourage stakeholder commitment and support.

Secondly, an **OGD Action Plan** should be developed to define ambitious but realistic goals and required actions:

- Both goals and actions need to be aligned to the long term vision.

Setting goals

Enhancing Public
Governance

Empowering
People

Identify areas of national priorities for sustainable development

Creating
Opportunities

Solving Public
Problems

Setting priorities and defining actions

An OGD strategy that prioritises “Enhancing Public Governance” notably making institutions effective, inclusive and accountable as per SDG 16, will focus on the release of different datasets and require different actions, compared to a strategy that prioritises e.g. “Empowering People”.

Setting priorities for an OGD strategy and designing an action plan is a sequenced process:

1. Identify and consult with all relevant stakeholders
2. Assess resources and availability of required electronic platforms
3. Understand where to start from (e.g. conduct an OGD assessment)
4. Establish shared goals/vision
5. Initiate a deliberative process and set priorities
6. Define S.M.A.R.T. actions for each goal (Specific, Measurable, Agreed Upon, Realistic, Time-based actions)
7. Carry out iterative implementation with feedback loops and evaluation
8. Review priorities and redefine actions accordingly

Start thinking from the results

OGD is a resource and infrastructure that goes horizontally across other policy areas.

An OGD initiative should never be an ‘end goal’ but rather a prerequisite and/or enabling component for other policies and national development priorities.

Start from the results you want to achieve. Then plan backwards to identify the data requirements and other preconditions needed to achieve those results.

Opening data for enhancing public governance, primarily by enhancing transparency (which helps preventing corruption), public service delivery and resource allocation.

Enhancing Public Governance

Possible outcomes:

- Proactive publication of budget and spending data
- Improved transparency and accountability in public procurement and contracting
- Improved integrity for MPs and asset declaration of MPs and itemized publication of party financing

Related datasets:

- Budget and spending data
- Contracting and public procurement data
- Asset declarations
- Itemized publications on party finances and sponsorship
- Company register and other key registers (land, property, etc.)
- Beneficial ownership data

Opening data for empowering and engaging people, enabling more informed and inclusive decision-making THROUGH new ways of communicating and accessing information.

Empowering People

Possible outcomes:

- Strengthened access to information and proactive disclosure
- Enhanced fiscal transparency in government budgets and spending
- Inclusive policy and decision-making
- Better access to public services

Related Datasets:

- Budget and spending data
- Parliamentary records, votings
- Laws and court cases
- Data on the type, price, location and performance of public services (e.g. education, health, etc.)

Opening data for creating new opportunities for fostering innovation and promoting economic growth and job creation.

Creating Opportunities

Possible outcomes:

- Improved access to high-quality information about economic conditions in regions/areas
- Improved information services about education, health, transport and other public services

Related Datasets:

- Business-filing data
- Sales tax data
- Demographic/census data
- Traffic and transport data
- Urban planning data

Open data is playing an increasingly important role in solving public problems by promoting new forms of data-driven assessment of such problems. It also enables data-driven engagement for more targeted interventions and enhanced collaboration.

Possible outcomes:

- Enhanced disaster response
- Faster response to disease outbreaks
- Battling climate change
- Access to safe food and water

Solving Public Problems

Related Datasets:

- Climate and weather data
- Earthquake data
- National maps
- Satellite imagery
- Citizen generated data
- Key information on sensitive infrastructures (roads, airports, hospitals, etc)

Conclusions

An OGD strategy should set priorities aligned with a country's main development goals and other national policy priorities. Ideally priorities can be clustered along the main societal benefits of OGD:

Enhancing Public
Governance

Empowering
People

Creating
Opportunities

Solving Public
Problems

For the formulation of a national OGD strategy there are many interesting examples from other countries to assess. An OGD strategy blueprint with best practice policy recommendations can be found on publicadministration.un.org/en/ogd.

Thank you!

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

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

United Nations Publication. Copyright © United Nations, 2017. All rights reserved.