Role of ICT and E-Government in Policy Integration to Support SDGs

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Expert Meeting on Policy Integration in Government in Pursuit of the SDGs
Objectives

- Explore state of practice in ICT-enabled Policy Integration
- Highlight exemplar ICT-enabled Policy Integration initiatives
- Discuss challenges in current Practices and opportunities from emerging technologies
Outline

Background

ICT and Policy Integration

Exemplar Cases

Beyond State of the Art

Discussion
Background - What is Policy Integration?

- Policy integration concerns:
  "the management of cross-cutting issues in policy-making that transcend the boundaries of established policy fields, which often do not correspond to the institutional responsibilities of individual departments." [1]

- A Governance Challenge that involves amongst other things:
  - building the collaboration structures,
  - resolving potential conflicts,
  - engagement of stakeholders and building coalitions
  - support and sustain communication and dialogue in potentially emerging inter-sectoral policy communities network
Background –
Mechanisms for Policy Integration

Categories of mechanisms include (already discussed in this meeting):

- **Strategic**: policy statements, setting concrete objectives and priorities

- **Institutional and administrative**: Policy Integration units (e.g. PCD4SD in Netherlands), inter-service consultation by requesting opinions of other DGs¹ on a policy, or decision

- **Knowledge and Assessment**: stakeholder consultation, impact assessment, dialog processes & reporting

¹, http://ec.europa.eu/about/ds_en.htm
Outline

- Background
- ICT and Policy Integration
- Exemplar Cases
- Beyond State of the Art
- Discussion
ICT and Policy Integration – Possible Roles for ICT

Pertinent questions:
- How does ICT interface with or support Policy Integration mechanisms?
- Can ICT directly contribute to Policy Integration strategies, e.g. Integrating Green IT and Environmental Sustainability Policies

Possible “uses” of ICT in Development [Sein et. al, 2004 - 2]:
- Commodity, by producing technology artefacts
- Supporting general development activities, e.g. data to support planning, management and coordination of development initiatives
- Driver of the economy through general purpose use ICT to support improvements and efficiencies across different sectors, such as education, manufacturing, health, public administration
- Directed use of ICT in specific sector by providing specialised applications such as e-health, e-education initiatives
ICT and Policy Integration – Implications

Possible patterns of applications of ICT in Policy Integration:

1) Supporting planning and management of policy integration initiatives including assessment of effectiveness (Type1)

2) Generic applications in the development and sustainability of different policy integration mechanisms including objectives setting, institutional frameworks, engagement of stakeholders, resolution of conflicts, etc. This category of applications can be reused from one PI initiative to another (Type 2)

3) Directed use of ICT in specific policy integration initiatives that is less transferrable (Type 3)
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Case 1 – ASEAN’s ICT for Policy Coordination
Type 2 Exemplar

The following set of recommendations were articulated to support policy coordination among ASEAN bodies and the Secretariat [3]:

- Robust, efficient common conferencing and collaborative software
- E-participation initiatives to deepen engagement with ASEAN stakeholders
- Use of policy blogs and wikis as part of Knowledge Management and information dissemination strategy
- Provide a Social networking strategy aimed at youths
- All above should be coordinated through a CIO-like structure

This would be implemented concomitantly with capacity building activities, development interoperability and information sharing standards and common technology infrastructure such as the ASEAN community cloud
Case 2 - ICT to Support Migrant Language Education
A Type 3 Exemplar

The case is on the use of ICT to support two policy integration regimes in Netherlands and Sweden on second language (L2) education for migrants [4]

- Case exemplifies how ICT can effectively support the integration of inclusion, social welfare and adult education policies.

- Two different Policy integration regimes at play in the case
  - Netherlands – Knowledge of Dutch is a requisite for entering the country and applying for residence
  - Sweden – Attendance of Swedish Language for Immigrant classes is linked to social welfare benefits

- ICT enabled the development of highly personalized digital language contents for different profiles of learners
Case 3 - New Zealand’s ICT-enabled WoG Approach
Another Type 2 Exemplar

Minister of State Services will work with Minister of Finance to direct government entities to comply with WoG directives

- securing economies or efficiencies across departments
- improving services or service delivery
- developing expertise and capability across the Public Service

Examples of Initiatives:

- Open Government Information and Data programme
- Cloud program
- Telecommunication-as-a-service Program
Case 3 - New Zealand’s ICT-enabled WoG Approach
Another Type 2 Exemplar (Cont’d)

“Telecommunications-as-a Service (TaaS) is a programme of work jointly managed by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). TaaS is an initiative on behalf of the Government Chief Information Officer (GCIO) as the Functional Leader for ICT and was signalled in the Government ICT Strategy and Action Plan to 2017.

TaaS aims to radically change the way telecommunications services are delivered, managed and used by government agencies. The programme will achieve this by delivering a catalogue that is supplied and managed by a panel of service providers. These services will transcend agency boundaries and allow agencies to easily connect with each other and with customers” [?]
Case 4 – ICT-enabled Assessment of PI Initiatives
Type 1 Exemplar

Context – Policy Coherence (or policy integration) for Development Programs for respective countries.

Goal is to assess the impact of OCED policies on food security of individual developing countries, e.g. on going efforts in Tanzania, sponsored by Finland and Switzerland

ICT will be used for managing and analysing data collected from fields.
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Beyond State of Practice in Policy Integration - Emerging Opportunities

- Leveraging Big, Open and Linked data, Internet of Things technologies to strengthen data capabilities of government [5]
- Open data from civil society and international organizations as development partners in generating evidence for policy integration effectiveness or otherwise
- ICT-based Policy modelling for design, analysis and simulation of policy integration options, many graduate programs (policy informatics and Computational Policy Modelling are emerging). Communities are also growing.
- Advanced Natural Language Processing approaches to enable automatic analysis of contents on social media and networking platforms for spontaneous citizen-led e-participation.
- More accessible citizen deliberation platforms
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Some observations

- There is a need for deeper and better understanding of the role of the ICT in Policy Integration for SD.

- There are very few scholarly work in this area, e.g. [6] and [7]

- We also need to carefully document and analyse successful applications of the ICT in Policy Integration initiatives for learning, [4] is a good example in this regard


3) ASEAN Studies Centre and ideacorp, ICT in Governance and Community Building in ASEA, A study carried out as part of the PANeGOV project and funded by the International Development Research Centre,


Thank you for your attention …

Questions?
Discussion

1) Do we know other good cases of ICT-enabled Policy Integration initiatives? Does any of these cases relate to newly emerging technologies (e.g. Big Data, Internet of Things)?

2) What are the major barriers to employing ICT/EGOV in policy integration initiatives?

3) What roles should ICT/EGOV authorities and leadership play and how should they be positioned in policy integration initiatives (see [6])