

**UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC SERVICE FORUM
AND AWARDS CEREMONY**

**International Knowledge-sharing Workshop on Open Government Data for Sustainable
Development**

22-23 June 2017

The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands

Concept Note

1. Background

The International Knowledge-sharing Workshop on Open Government Data (OGD) for Sustainable Development is being organized by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) under the project of “Strengthening of Capacities of Developing Countries to Provide Access to Information for Sustainable Development through Open Government Data”, implemented by the DPADM/UNDESA. The aim of the project is promoting the use OGD for advancing transparency, accountability and sustainable development in Bangladesh, Nepal, Panama and Uruguay.

The International Knowledge-sharing Workshop on OGD will be held during the United Nations Public Service (UNPS) Forum and Award Ceremony 2017 titled “The Future is Now: Accelerating Public Service Innovation for Agenda 2030”. The Forum, which is held in honor of the United Nations Public Service Day, is organized by the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands and DPADM/UNDESA.

The Workshop, will share the results of the capacity development project among participating countries and discuss the innovative potential of OGD development planning. This event targets senior and mid-level government officials who are responsible for coordinating OGD initiatives in their respective countries as well as participants in the UNPS Forum and Award Ceremony. The event aims to enhance participants’ capacity while learning lessons on the development of an OGD strategy and action plan. Priority will be given to addressing data requirements in areas which are relevant to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals including sustainable development goals (SDGs).

2. Objectives

The International Knowledge-sharing Workshop on OGD for Sustainable Development (hereinafter “Workshop) is aimed at promoting an exchange of information on the

development of OGD national strategies and action plans in support of access to information, transparency and accountability for sustainable development. Participants from selected countries will be sharing experiences and lessons learned during project implementation. They will also learn from innovative public administration approaches for SDG implementation being showcased during the UNPS Forum. While enhancing participants' capacities on OGD action planning, the Workshop will also guide them to reflect on how this type of planning can maximize the impact on sustainable development, particularly on the poorest and most vulnerable.

3. Related SDGs

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

4. Innovative Practices

The effects of OGD utilization are potentially far reaching for sustainable development with positive impact on innovation, transparency, accountability, participatory governance and economic growth. Governments can enhance transparency and accountability not only through better access, but also through the proactive sharing and reuse of public information. By opening data, people are more directly informed and empowered to engage in decision-making.

Strengthened data and statistics available in open formats are critical for the identification of development opportunities and improved decision-making as well as for monitoring SDG implementation and ensuring that no one is left behind in this process. Moreover, governments can also stimulate the creation of innovative business and services which deliver social and commercial value to citizens.

Well designed, accountable and transparent programmes in areas such as justice, health, education, security, water, anti-corruption, among others, will offer better conditions to all people, including the vulnerable groups. Thus the latter can be seen as indirect users of OGD. However, it is important to set an image of OGD not as a sophisticated or technological initiative, but as a tool with social purpose.

The most vulnerable do not necessarily need to be trained to receive the positive effects of OGD use. Raising awareness among them is important, but intermediaries are needed to understand their needs and create value to respond to these needs through OGD. Before developing tools for the vulnerable communities, it is important for governments to open up a space for understanding what these groups really need and work with them on the use of data for solving their problem.

There are also simple channels to inform possible beneficiaries and promote the use of data through services that offer direct options for the most vulnerable. These types of channels should be part of the discussion on how to reach those who do not have access to any information and communication technology. In this regard, when OGD cuts across organizational structures and is integrated into the existing efforts carried out by government agencies, it can support action required to solving people's problems.

Moreover, attaining coherent outcomes on multidimensional aspects of development requires governments to continuously monitor, in an inclusive manner, the impact of public policies. OGD can offer valuable opportunities to collaboratively do so.

5. Expected Outputs

The expected outputs of the Workshop include:

- Key conclusions and recommendations some of which will be fed into the UNPS Forum outcome document.
- Finalized OGD action plans for Bangladesh, Nepal, Panama and Uruguay.
- Analytical report, produced at the end of the Workshop to summarize the deliberations, conclusions and recommendations of this event. The draft report will be circulated for comments among participants, and subsequently disseminated for the general public through the relevant DPADM web page.

6. Dates and Venue

The Workshop will take place at the World Forum, Churchillplein 10, 2517 JW, The Hague, The Netherlands, on 22 and 23 June 2017 as part of the UNPS Forum and Award Ceremony 2017. (information on the Forum is available on UNDESA's website at: <https://publicadministration.un.org/en/unps2017>). The event will be conducted in English.

7. Participants

The Workshop targets three groups of participants, namely:

- Senior and mid-level government officials who are responsible for coordinating the OGD programmes in their respective countries as well as officials from transparency, innovation, planning and other relevant government agencies. It is expected that government representatives from the four project countries (Nepal, Bangladesh,

Panama and Uruguay¹) and government representatives from Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico in Latin America as well as Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines and South Korea in Asia² will attend this Workshop.

- UNPSA winners and other experts including ICT experts, statisticians, and programme managers.
- United Nations officials, including from DESA, UNDP and other international organizations.

8. Programme

During the first day, participants are expected to join one of the following eight tracks where innovators will present their experiences and lessons:

- Excellence in delivering health services (DESA-led)
- Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities (DESA-led)
- Unlocking the potential of the furthest behind (DESA-led)
- Partnerships for sustainable energy
- Cooperative management of increasing water and sea levels
- Enabling children and youth people to achieve the Agenda 2030
- Job creation and prosperity (DESA-led)
- Circular economy: sustainable management of resources

During the second day, participants will attend the International knowledge-sharing on OGD Workshop morning and lunch sessions. The first part of the Workshop (morning session) will include a reflection on approaches and challenges of using OGD to advance sustainable development. The second part (lunch session) will allow discussing OGD strategy development milestones and countries' experiences in using OGD for promoting the achievement of the 2030 agenda. In the afternoon, participants will also have the opportunity to observe the ministerial discussion on "how do we accelerate innovations in public service" as well as the United Nations Public Service Award Ceremony.

Programme at a glance:

21 June	22 June	23 June	24 June
Participants arrive in The Hague	Registration	Plenary Session: How is innovation shaping the government of the future?	Participants leave from The Hague
	Opening Plenary Session	International knowledge-sharing workshop on OGD	

¹ Focal points in the four countries targeted by the project of "Strengthening of Capacities of Developing Countries to Provide Access to Information for Sustainable Development through Open Government Data"

² Representatives who attended one of the two regional events organized by the project. The aim is to ensure continuity to the promotion of partnerships and experience-sharing within a South-South cooperation perspective promoted by this project.

		(morning session)	
	Break	International knowledge-sharing workshop on OGD (lunch session)	
	Parallel tracks: Public Service Innovations from around the world: future-proofing government and leaving no one behind	Ministerial Conversation: From The Hague onwards: How do we accelerate innovations in public service?	
		Closing	
		United Nations Public Service Award Ceremony	
	Dinner and cultural programme	Closing cocktail	

9. Key questions for Discussion

Session 1

- What approaches have you adopted to use OGD for advancing sustainable development?
- What are the main challenges you had to overcome?

Session 2

- What are the key innovative elements of your country's OGD action plan in relation to public service innovation for Agenda 2030?
- What is the rationale behind these innovative elements? How are they going to be implemented?
- What are the key lessons learned? Is there any room for improvement?

10. Contact Information

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General questions regarding logistics can be sent to un-psf2017@minbzk.nl

Questions regarding registration can be sent to registration-unpsf2017@minbuza.nl