



OPEN DATA

Issue 4 of a series of articles published periodically by Impact For Development

OVERVIEW

THE RIGHT TO ACCESS INFORMATION

The Right to Freely Access Information is embedded in the principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, in fact, its 19th article states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes **freedom** to hold opinions without interference and **to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers**".

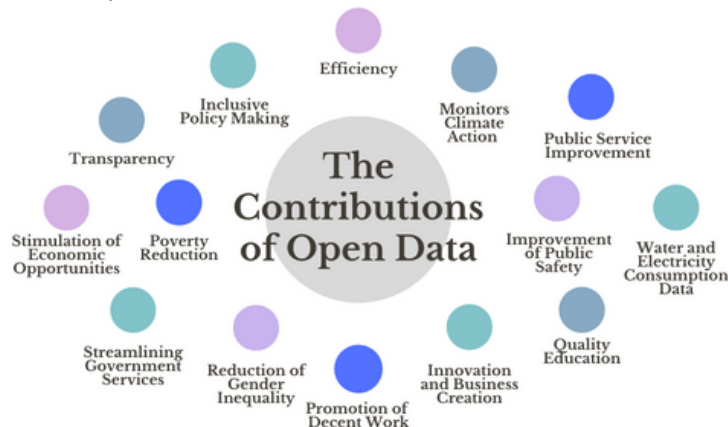


The importance of the Right to Access Information lies in the fact that it drives positive change in everyone's lives on various levels. It gives citizens access to information regarding how decisions are made and how funds are allocated; Gives civil society organizations access to information vital for the development of projects and their function as watch-dogs; and Helps journalists gather data and facts (OECD).

OPEN DATA

While the right to access information is more encompassing, the principle of "Data Openness" specifically addresses the availability of data to the public, as it upholds transparency and accountability by ensuring government data is not only available, but also freely accessible, reusable and re-distributed.

Open Data has a key role in making progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as it directly contributes to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.



CASE STUDIES

Impact for Development utilized the benchmarking tool OpenDevLibrary.org to review OECD innovation case studies, as well as OGP commitments related to open data and implemented by governments. In this context, there are 4 OECD case studies on award winning initiatives, in addition to 9 OGP commitments that showed outstanding results.

OECD INNOVATION CASE STUDIES

AUSTRALIA- CODEATHON



In 2018, Australia hosted a Codeathon to generate new ways of solving law enforcement and intelligence challenges. In addition to generating over 10 potential solutions and various prototypes, the event also won a Public Sector Innovation Award.

BRAZIL- SERVICES GUIDE



In 2018, the Alagoas state government launched "Services Guide", a digital catalogue aiming to reduce inefficiency and costs when trying to access government data. It does so by creating a platform that centralizes all information regarding public services.

SPAIN- IREKIA



Irekia is a civic participation and accountability website, it includes a database on each public office, including its agenda, staff, projects and budget. Irekia also creates a space where citizens can submit petition initiatives and receive feedback.

UKRAINE- PROZORRO & DRAFT LAW ON OPEN DATA



Ukraine has implemented 2 open data initiatives that were recognized for their success in both OECD innovation case studies and OGP commitments. The first is ProZorro, which ensures openness and transparency in public procurement. The second is related to a Draft Law on Open Data to develop a legal framework for public access to information and introduce provisions on open data.

OGP COMMITMENTS

CHILE- ENERGY SECTOR WATCH



In 2016, the Ministry of Energy of Chile committed to making the energy sector more transparent, accessible and participatory. This commitment made exceptional progress in increasing access to information and civic participation through the creation of the "Open Energy" portal, the "Energy Commune" program and the co-design of new electricity and gas bills.

CROATIA- PROACTIVE RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND OPENING DATA



The Government of Croatia established the Central State Portal, an open data portal that is supported by the Act on the Right to Access Information and showed outstanding results in increasing access and the use of public sector data for commercial and non-commercial purposes.

ITALY- ROME COOPERATES



This OGP commitment consisted of utilizing open data and information systems to create the Roma Capitale website. The latter aims to enable civic participation, collaboration and to involve citizens in decision making and action planning.

PANAMA- STANDARDIZATION IN DIGITAL FORMATS



Submitted in 2015, this commitment showed outstanding results in the creation of standards for formats and interfaces of public sector web pages to improve access to information.

PARAGUAY- LAW ON ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION



In 2014, Paraguay implemented the "Free Citizen Access to Public Information and Government Transparency" Law. This OGP commitment significantly increased access to information by defining its standards and regulating the time to respond to citizens' inquiries.

UNITED STATES- OPEN SCIENCE THROUGH OPEN DATA & AMMENDMENTS TO FOIA



The United States implemented two OGP commitments that were recognized for their success. The first related to expanding and improving the services of the Freedom of Information Act website and releasing Nonprofit tax filings. The second initiative ensures access to government-funded scientific information and data.