Digital government toolkit

	Digital Government Strategies: Good Practices
	Czech Republic: Supervisor (Supervizor)

The OECD Council adopted on 15 July 2014 the Recommendation on Digital Government Strategies. The Recommendation provides a set of 12 principles structured around 3 pillars. The OECD Secretariat developed a Digital Government Policy Toolkit to support OECD member countries and non-member adhering countries with the implementation of the Recommendation. This practice was submitted by the government of United Kingdom to be considered as a good practice in the implementation of one or more of the principles contained in the Recommendation.

Description of the practice:

Organisation: Ministry of the Interior (good practice in responsibility of Ministry of Finance)

Name of the practice: Supervisor

Principles implemented: Principle 1 – Openness, transparency and inclusiveness

Principle 3 – Creation of a data-driven culture in the public sector

Description:

Supervisor is an online visualization (http://data.mfcr.cz/supervizor) of institutions' invoices. It loads data from individual open data catalogues including details on supplier, amount, expense description and budget categorization and then groups these invoices by the budget categorization and supplier in a graphic visualization making it very simple for wider public, NGOs, companies and public administration itself to gather information about on what institutions spend public money and what suppliers are they sending the money to.

For example, in one click anyone can see, who are the main institution's suppliers in consulting category, and on another click, what is the institution buying from them. The Supervisor solution allows for other institutions to join and to visualize data in our application instance as well as copy the entire solution's source code, adapt it to their needs and run it as their own instance on their own web server.

The aim of this project has always been to let other institutions join and/or reuse the software as well as to promote widespread sharing and most importantly usage of open data in the Czech Republic, therefore usage of open-source software has been one of our top priorities.

Supervisor helps public institutions and municipalities to present their spending to the public in a way that everyone understands. Supervisor perfectly explains the difference between publishing information unstructured and publishing information according to the open data standards.

Results

The most important result of our app was the immediate interest of other ministries which in the end led to creation of open data catalogues and start of open data projects on these ministries as publishing open data was one of our conditions for being shown in our app.

Development:

Design:

Currently eight institutions are included in the original instance run by the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic: Czech Telecommunication Office, Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, The State Fund for Transport Infrastructure.

Testing:

Project Supervisor is led by the open data team at the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic, section of Financial Management and Audit. The project includes development of the application, planning of future usage and expansion, motivation of other institutions to join and technical aid with export and open data catalogue setup.

Implementation:

Tool:

Currently development of the application source code is done at jointly at our team and using open contribution through the GitHub platform.

The solution reuses APIs of open data catalogues used by involved institutions to gather source data. Mostly used open data catalogue solutions among the involved institutions are DKAN and CKAN software (open-source), however other solutions based on Microsoft Sharepoint and custom CMS systems are also used.

Resources:

The application has been developed by the employees of Ministry of the Finance in 10 man-days. The project has not been provided any financial support or additional personal support as well as not extensive IT support, which has been limited to providing virtual server with basic support.

Diffusion and scaling:

The knowledge is transferred using simple data visualization, which makes it easy for the public to navigate to what they were searching for in as little as three clicks of a mouse.

Extension:

One institution, Prague Institute of Planning and Development, set up their own instance of the application and several municipalities expressed their interest in setting it up in close future.

Partnerships:

Lessons learned

The application was built as a proof-of-concept and was not initially meant for production use. When interest of public and other ministries grew strong at the beginning we didn't have much time to implement a production version of the app, therefore the development proof-of-concept version was used with only minor changes. As a result we are still using the development version now, because it works and there is not enough pressure to implement the new one. I would suggest going to production with a production version despite the delay caused by development.

Conditions required:

Good cooperation with IT, support from superiors and a will to learn new things.

Formal Evaluation:

Additional information: