



Digital Government Strategies: Good Practices



Slovenia: Open Data Festival

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 is developing 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 Slovenia 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 Public Administration, Slovenia

Name of the practice: Open Data Festival

Principles implemented: Principle 3- Create a data-driven culture in the public sector

Description: In the context of events taking place in Slovenia in order to raise public awareness of the constitutional right to know, the Ministry of Public Administration organised in October 2015 the first Open Data Festival. The objective of the festival was to bring to attention to the employees in the public sector the importance of open data, as well as to the users on re-use of public sector information.

The initiative is composed of three sets of activities. The first is a public debate with examples of good practices that have emerged from the public sector, or with its data.

During the second set of activities, an on-going cooperation with different faculties takes place, where students, in the process of their studies, use public sector open data. Different applications are developed to present the results. In addition to the students, representatives of individual institutions, whose data was used in the process, are invited to collaborate. The purpose of this is that they help students in understanding the data and advise them in substantive terms.

The third set of activities is organising the hackathon, an event that focuses on concrete content.

Project management: Ministry of Public Administration, Slovenia.

Project team: The Ministry of Public Administration is the main organiser of the festival. The Faculty of Computer and Information Science University of Ljubljana helps to organise the event. Various public sector institutions were invited to collaborate, such as:



- Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.
- Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation.
- Ministry of Finance.
- Information and Documentation Centre for Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Infrastructure.

http://www.mju.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/transparentnost_in_dostop_do_informacij_javnega_znacza/spletni_dostop_do_javnih_evidenc_ponovna_uporaba_in_odprti_podatki/

Results

The main results of the project were two events with over 160 participants and 18 presentations of good practices, a legislative overview of the open data, the students' work based on the developed application. It also raised awareness among the public sector employees.

Development

Design: June 2015.

Testing:

Implementation: June 2015

The first Open Data Festival took place in October 2015 in Ljubljana. In the first part of the festival, the following topics were discussed:

- I. Introduction: general strategic and legal framework of public sector data re-uses.
 - Opening Speech of the Minister of public administration, Boris Koprivnikar
 - Legal foundations and plans of activities at Ministry of Public Administration. Mag. Renata Zatler, Transparency, Integrity and Political System Service (STIPS) at Ministry of Public Administration
 - Role of the Information Commissioner in providing open data. Mojca Prelesnik (IP RS)
 - Presentation of Spanish strategy and open data model. Martin Alvarez-Espinar, Epsi Plus (Spain)
- II. User experience of re-use of public administration data and applicable and technological solutions
 - Legislative monitoring – re-use of public data bases for providing legislative trace. Vid Doria Transparency International Slovenia
 - Acquiring public data or data for re-use: what are the problems, when put in practice? Anže Voh Boštic, Pod Črto portal
 - Examples of practical use of analytics in public administration. Klemen Koselj, IBM
 - (Good and bad) practices of “open” spatial data. Gregor Milčinski, Sinergise



- Information system for planning and monitoring transportation of dangerous goods by road. Roberto Degan, LUZ d.d.
- III. Big data management
 - Big data and global monitoring of media. Dr. Gregor Leban, Institute Jozef Stefan
 - Statistical processing of mass data and quality control. Boro Nikić, SURS
 - Metrological data control from automated devices. Miha Demšar, ARSO

Link to the news about the event:

http://www.mju.gov.si/si/novinarsko_sredisce/novica/article/1328/6506/7e107518f8b66c7b660f500bb0a1d432/

In the second part, the students prepared seminar papers, which they presented at the event. The introductory speech was performed by the dean of Faculty of Computer and Information Science, the Minister of public administration and the head of the laboratory for computer graphics and multimedia, who presented the purpose of the papers and the general findings of the meaning of public sector data processing.

The following papers were presented:

1. The Budget of the Republic of Slovenia 2015 (Nejc Konjevič).
2. Budgets of Municipalities (Tim Oblak & Benjamin Fele).
3. Selected Demographic Data of municipalities (Luka Zadel).
4. Selected Demographic Data of Municipalities (Matej Valenčič).
5. Online Application for Visualization of Various Trends in Slovenia Rolling Stock (Jaka Bac).
6. Turism – Cultural Heritage and Public Transport (Matic Podpadec).
7. Cultural Heritage and Tourism (Danijel Milošević).

At the beginning of the second part, data provider presents data to the students.

After the presentations a general discussion and the end of the event followed.

Link to the news about the event:

http://www.mju.gov.si/si/novinarsko_sredisce/novica/browse/1/select/sporocilo_za_javnost/article/12447/6633/9e85eed0d3376d548ae5a0b8e95c899d/?tx_ttnews%5Bmonth%5D=10&tx_ttnews%5Byear%5D=2015

News about the final event of the second part:

http://www.mju.gov.si/si/novinarsko_sredisce/novica/select/sporocilo_za_javnost/article/12447/7108/7ee9ef4760a908c5174e82e5e0d7a422/?tx_ttnews%5Bmonth%5D=03&tx_ttnews%5Byear%5D=2016

Resources: The core coordination staff on the Ministry of Public Administration consisted from 3 persons, together with the project team of 9 persons.



Diffusion and scaling:

In June 2016, a hackathon was organised together with the Transparency International Slovenia.

At the event, two analyses have been foreseen:

- Cost analysis of municipality administration, according to population.
- Use of developmental resources.

In October 2016, the second Open Data Festival will take place in Ljubljana. The Faculty of Computer and Information Science and the Faculty of Administration will help with the organisation of the event.

The Ministry of Public Administration organised an event, where the students' results are presented. We actively encourage the public sector to open up their data and participate at the Open Data Festival.

Partnerships:

- Faculty of Computer and Information Science, University of Ljubljana
- Faculty of Administration, University of Ljubljana
- Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
- Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation
- Ministry of Finance
- Information and Documentation Centre for Cultural Heritage
- Ministry of Infrastructure

Nature of the partnership: Academics and research bodies, and public sector organisations.

Lessons learned

Open data is time-consuming process. By organising events like this, we wish to show the data administration what can be achieved with their data. In addition we wish to promote the re-use of public sector information.

The public release of the products made by the students is seen as a weakness, i.e. should be worked on. Since their products are only prototypes, a platform should be provided, which will enable the publication of a variety of applications in different environments.

Conditions required: There should be continuous raising of awareness among users, data administrators. If examples of good practices are not presented, it will be very difficult to draw attention to all involved in the process.



Digital government toolkit



Additional information: Opening up data is a process, which will affect the attitude of data administrators and expectations of users. By organising different events, which demonstrate various possibilities of public sector open data re-use, awareness is raised among the public which affects the mental leap in a society, where digital data represents “raw product”, an untapped potential.

The results of seminar papers indicated that particular attention has to be paid to the quality of data. By opening up data, all hidden mistakes will become visible; however, this represents a new obstacle, because some do not wish for these mistakes to be seen by the public, or the power over the management of data will also be lost.