Open government data

The public sector produces and collects a wealth of data in its day-to-day activities. By making these data available, easily accessible and re-usable by citizens and businesses, governments can improve accountability and transparency, create new business opportunities and better inform both citizen engagement and their own decision-making.

The proactive release of Open government data (OGD) is transforming public services in health care, education, transport, security and environment (pollution, waste management) at the national and sub-national levels. The proliferation of mobile phone applications using geospatial data is just one example of how data empower citizens and businesses by improving access and generating new services based on public data. In 2013, G8 countries adopted the first international instrument to guide the implementation of OGD strategies. The G8 Open Data Charter defines a series of five principles: 1) open data by default; 2) quality and quantity data; 3) usable by all; 4) releasing data for improved governance and; 5) releasing data for innovation, as well as three collective actions to guide the implementation of those principles.

The OECD has begun to assist governments in developing and implementing OGD strategies, notably through the development of a framework and related set of indicators to monitor their implementation and impact (Ubaldi, 2013). Out of the 30 OECD countries that responded to the 2014 OECD survey on OGD 25 have a dedicated comprehensive strategy on OGD at the Central/federal level and a vast majority (29) have developed a national open data portal, with the exception of Turkey.

Moving beyond the adoption of strategies and the creation of portals, the OECD has created its own set of indicators, based on its methodology and structured around the G8 Open Data Charter. As a first step in producing a comprehensive measure of the level of implementation of the G8 Open Data Charter, the OECD pilot Index on Open government data assesses governments' efforts to implement open data in three dimensions: 1. Data availability on the national portal (based on principle 1 and collective action 2); 2. Data accessibility on the national portal (based on principle 3) and 3. Governments' support to innovative re-use and stakeholder engagement (principle 5). The only principle not covered in this year's index is Principle 4: Releasing Data for improved governance value (e.g. transparency) as existing measurement efforts have focused primarily on socio economic value creation. In the future, the OECD will further extend this indicator and create other indicators to recognise all of the potential benefits of open data, including the economic, social and good governance aspects.

Bringing the three dimensions together in a composite index, government open data efforts in 2014 were the highest in Korea, France, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Spain whereas they were lowest in Poland. Some countries like Switzerland, Estonia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Finland are currently undertaking important transformations of their OGD central/federal portal which may not show up in this 2014 index.

In general, countries which rank the highest on the index also report a higher number of re-use and applications creation on their OGD national portal. For instance countries like Korea, France, the United Kingdom and Canada report respectively 407, 73, 363, and 207 initiatives (apps phone, APIs etc.) re-using public data (OECD Survey on Open Government Data, 2014). Many reasons can explain higher levels of re-use of public data including for instance the number and quality of computer scientists in each country, the greater tendency to promote re-use initiatives of public data on the national portal or the existence of a more mature OGD ecosystem.

Methodology and definitions

The data come from the 2014 OECD Survey on Open Government Data. Survey respondents were predominantly chief information officers in OECD countries and two candidate countries (Colombia and Latvia). Responses represent countries' own assessments of current practices and procedures regarding open government data. Data refer only to central/federal governments and exclude open government data practices at the state/local levels.

The composite index is based on the G8 Open Data Charter principles and on the methodology described in OECD work (Ubaldi, 2013). The OECD pilot index on Open Government Data contains 19 variables that cover information on three dimensions: i) Data availability on the national portal; ii) Data accessibility on the national portal and iii) Government support to innovative re-use of public data and stakeholder engagement. The index does not purport to measure the overall quality of the open government data approach/strategy in each country. Annex E contains a description of the methodology used to construct this index.

Further reading

G8 (2013), "Open Data Charter", Lough Erne, UK, *www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-data-charter/g8-open-data-charter-and-technical-annex.*

Ubaldi, B. (2013), "Open Government Data: Towards Empirical Analysis of Open Government Data Initiatives", *OECD Working Papers on Public Governance*, No. 22, OECD, Paris, *http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5k46bj4f03s7-en.*

Figure notes

10.7: Data for the Czech Republic, Iceland, Israel and Luxembourg are not available.

10.8: Data for the Czech Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Israel and Luxembourg are not available. This year's index is a "pilot" version (see Annex E for full methodology) covering the following dimensions: data accessibility and data availability on the national data portal, and government's efforts to support data re-use.

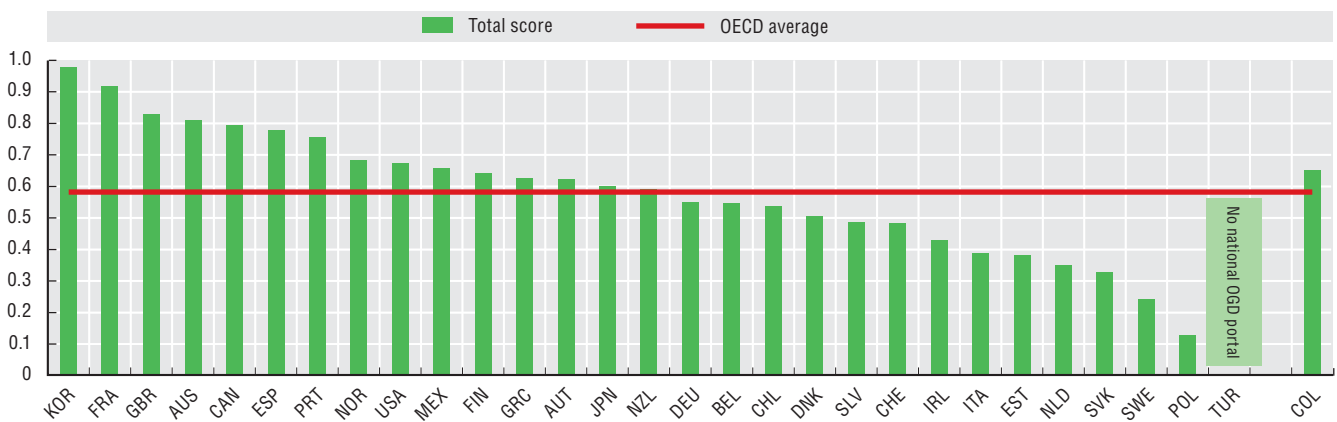## 10.7. Central/federal government support to Open government data, 2014

	Strategy/Infrastructure		Consultations	Data re-use support and promotion		Data accessibility on the national portal			
	Single Central/federal OGD strategy	Existence of a national OGD portal	Regular consultation of users' needs for data release	Organization of co-creation type events (e.g. hackathons)	Training for civil servants to build capacities for data analysis and re-use	Data released in CSV format (machine readable)	Systematic provision of metadata	User feedback section	Possibility to receive notification when datasets are added
Australia	●	●	●	✧	■	■	●	●	●
Austria	●	●	●	✧	✧	■	●	○	●
Belgium	○	●	●	✧	✧	■	●	●	○
Canada	●	●	●	■	✧	■	●	●	○
Chile	●	●	○	■	✧	■	●	●	○
Denmark	○	●	○	✧	❑	■	○	●	●
Estonia	●	●	●	✧	❑	■	●	●	○
Finland	●	●	●	■	✧	■	○	●	●
France	●	●	●	■	✧	■	●	●	●
Germany	●	●	●	✧	❑	■	○	○	○
Greece	●	●	●	■	✧	✧	○	●	○
Hungary	○	●	●	❑	✧	..	..	..	..
Ireland	●	●	●	..	..	■	○	●	○
Italy	●	●	●	■	✧	■	●	○	○
Japan	●	●	●	✧	✧	●	●	●	●
Korea	●	●	●	■	■	■	●	●	●
Mexico	●	●	●	■	■	●	●	●	○
Netherlands	●	●	○	✧	❑	■	●	○	○
New Zealand	●	●	●	✧	✧	■	○	●	●
Norway	●	●	●	■	✧	■	●	●	○
Poland	●	●	○	❑	✧	✧	●	○	○
Portugal	●	●	●	✧	✧	●	●	●	○
Slovak Republic	○	●	●	✧	❑	■	●	○	○
Slovenia	●	●	○	❑	✧	■	○	●	●
Spain	●	●	●	■	■	■	●	●	●
Sweden	●	●	●	..	..	■	○	●	○
Switzerland	●	●	●	■	✧	●	●	○	●
Turkey	○	○	○	✧	❑	X	X	X	X
United Kingdom	●	●	●	✧	■	■	●	●	●
United States	●	●	●	..	..	■	●	●	○
OECD Total	**25**	**29**	**24**				**20**	**21**	**10**
Colombia	●	●	●	■	✧	■	●	●	○
Latvia	○	○	●	✧	❑	X	X	X	X

● Yes.
○ No.
■ Often/Generally.
✧ Sometimes.
❑ Never.
.. Missing data.
X Not applicable.

Source: OECD (2014), Survey on Open Government Data.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933249175

10.8. *OURdata* Index: Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data, 2014

Source: OECD (2014), Survey on Open Government Data.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933249180

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