Stories of use cases: Open data and a new push for European democracy

26 May 2023
10.00 — 11.30 CET
Rules of the game

- The webinar will be recorded
- Please mute yourselves during the webinar
- Please reserve 3 min after the webinar to help us improve by filling in our feedback form
- For questions, please use the ClickMeeting chat.
Agenda

10:00 – 10:10 CET
Introduction to the political priority ‘A new push for European democracy’ and the role of open data

10:10 – 10:25 CET
Get to know: EU Integrity Watch

10:25 – 10:40 CET
Get to know: Institute for Freedom of Information

10:40 – 11:25 CET
Panel discussion

11:15 – 11:30 CET
Wrap up and feedback
Our speakers

Inmaculada Farfan Velasco
Project Manager
Data.europa.eu, Publications
Office of the EU

Raphaël Kergueno
EU Integrity Watch

Teona Turashvili
Institute for Freedom of Information
Introduction to the political priority 'A new push for European democracy' and the role of open data
A New Push for European Democracy

• Strive for more in nurturing, protecting and strengthening our democracy
• Unity based on shared economic values: free independent press, upholding the rule of law, fundamental rights and equality for all.
Open data nurturing our democracies

• **Open data** empowers citizens to make decisions based on reliable information
• **Open data** makes governments and public administrations accountable and more transparent
• **Open data** helps fight disinformation and fake news with the power of trustworthy information from reliable resources
The series on use cases

• The third of the series, to present real-time initiatives on how to use open data to address global political priorities (European Green Deal, An economy that works for people,...)
• Data.europa.eu as central point bringing together users and data providers, to raise **awareness** about the importance of data sharing to grasp economic opportunities

**Use case observatory:** A 3-year monitoring exercise of 30 reuse cases to understand the economic, governmental, social and environmental impact of open data

**EU Datathon:** The open data competition, inviting teams to develop apps with open data to address political priorities
Get to know: EU Integrity Watch
Raphaël Kergueno
EU INTEGRITY WATCH
Opening data to foster lobby transparency

26 April 2023
data.europa academy Stories of use cases: open data and a new push for European democracy

Presented by
Raphaël Kergueno – Senior Policy officer
EU INTEGRITY WATCH: ENHANCING INTEGRITY THROUGH CIVIC MONITORING

- Empowers citizens, journalists, civil society to enhance EU political integrity.
- Provides interactive databases on Commission & MEP lobby meetings, EU lobbyists and MEP side incomes in a user-friendly format in the form of dynamic graphs, tables and text.
- >15k users per year, hundreds of media-stories, academic research & civil society engagement.
- All data from EU IW and national platforms available on the new Integrity Watch Data Hub
INTEGRITY WATCH 3.0: ENHANCING INTEGRITY THROUGH CIVIC MONITORING

- IW Platforms deployed in 9 EU Member States & 2 EU institutions (EC & EP) covering 43% of EU citizens + UK
- 32 datasets cleaned, parsed and analysed on asset and income declarations, political finance & lobbying + EU public procurement database (TED)
- IW 3.0 project: 50+ new datasets, 7 risk monitoring tools & 7 new countries by end of 2023
- 6 new countries planned outside IW 3.0 project
- IW Datahub: data.integritywatch.eu
INTEGRITY WATCH AS A TOOL FOR DATA-DRIVEN ADVOCACY

1. Integrity Watch EU raises awareness among the citizens, journalists, academia and policy-making on TI’s positions on lobby transparency, prevention of conflicts of interests and fraud in EU public procurement.

2. Data-analysis highlights gaps and best practices in rules governing ethics in public life leading to targeted advocacy recommendations.

3. Collecting and providing hard to reach data pushes public institutions to adopt better open data standards in the field of political integrity.
THE EU TRANSPARENCY REGISTER

- Transparency Register displays **key information on 12k lobbyists in Brussels**: basic details, goals, policies files followed, lobbyists, financial data and EU funding received and **unique IDs**.

- Definition encompasses all actors involved in influencing EU decision-making, both through direct and indirect means **improves data quality**.

- Full dataset made available in **machine-readable formats** on the European Commission open data portal.

- Data challenge: **different reporting requirement** between type of organisations → impacts Integrity Watch EU and makes analysis more difficult.

- Regulatory challenge: not mandatory for the European Parliament and Council → **does not capture all lobbyists active in Brussels**.
EU INTEGRITY WATCH: OPENING-UP DATA ON COMMISSION LOBBYING

- **2014**: High-level lobby meetings (Commissioners, Cabinet members and Director-generals) made available on 90+ page of EC website.

- **2018**: High-level lobby meetings published in e-pdfs on individual entries of EU lobbyists on the Transparency Register in 2018 directly generated from the EC database.

- **2022**: High-level lobby meetings published in machine-readable formats (.xml and .csv) on data.Europa.eu.

- Open data challenge: scrapers / parsers prone to errors and require constant maintenance. Severe impact for data-visualisation platform such as IW EU.

- Open data best practice: EC meetings uses TR unique IDs → facilitates cross-referencing with key lobbyist information.
EU INTEGRITY WATCH: COMMISSION LOBBYING KEY FINDINGS

- **19k high-level lobby meetings** (Commissioners, Cabinet members and Director-generals) published under President Von der Leyen Commission.

- Top 3 EC portfolio’s targeted by lobbyists are: **European Green Deal (2846)**, **Internal Market (2147)** & **Financial Services (1486)**.

- Companies and business associations represent **55% of all meetings**.

- Nearly 30% of all meetings were held with civil society and other non-commercial entities.

- Commissioner with the most meetings is **Thierry Breton**.

- Top organisations with the most meetings are: **Business Europe (172)**, **European Trade Union Confederation (126)** & **Transport and Environment (108)**.
EU INTEGRITY WATCH: WHY DOES IT MATTER FOR DEMOCRACY?

- Data published on lobbying re-published on IW EU is used by academia, investigative journalists, CSO’s resulting in hundreds of articles & reports.

- TI EU re-uses data to look at lobbying footprint of certain categories of organisations (eg: big tech) and draw recommendations based on empirical analysis.

- Fosters greater understanding on EU decision-making and creates a mechanism of accountability that enhances citizens trust.

- Open data contributes to open governance.
EMPOWERING CITIZENS TO ENHANCE INTEGRITY OF EU PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Transparency International EU
rkergueno@transparency.org

Thank you!

Merci!

Grazie!

Hvala vam!

Paldies!

Ačiū!

Bedankt!

Гrazie!

Ευχαριστώ!

¡Gracias!

Ευχαριστώ!

Bedankt!

Ευχαριστώ!

¡Gracias!

Ευχαριστώ!

Bedankt!

Ευχαριστώ!

¡Gracias!

Ευχαριστώ!

Bedankt!

Ευχαριστώ!
Get to know: Institute for Freedom of Information

Teona Turashvili
DATALAB.GE – ACCESS TO OPEN DATA FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Stories of use cases: Open data and a new push for European democracy

Presented by: Teona Turashvili
Local Government | Internet and Innovation Directions Head, IDFI

May 26, 2023
IDFI’s Initial Activities regarding Access to Public Data

- Established in 2009
- **Our Vision** - is an informed and empowered society for democratic governance
- Information as a **driving force** for a democratic and prosperous society.
- **IDFI’s DNA:** Information fuels democratic and prosperous societies. It empowers *citizens* to hold governments and businesses accountable, *governments* to better respond to citizens’ needs, and *businesses* to design innovative, growth-oriented solutions.
IDFI’s Initial Activities regarding Access to Public Data

- Requesting public information from all public institutions
- Annual ranking of public institutions based on their compliance with FOI requests
- Monitoring websites of public institutions
- Advocating the improvement of access to public information legislation, standards and practice
- Using data for holding government accountable: analyzing various government policies and programs, studying bureaucratic expenses, elaborating evidence-based recommendations, outreach through videos and visualizations.
DataLab.Ge - Georgia’s Open Data Lab

DataLab enables you to

Explore
Explore datasets on public policy issues in open formats

Analyse
Process, categorize analyse data of your interest

Publish
Get involved yourself publish your data

Visualize
Prepare simple data visualizations

Create
Create new apps using open data

Download
Download data in open formats

Share
Share data in social networks
Impact and Other Initiatives of Promoting the Use of and Access to Open data

- #Data4Change Annual Essay Contest
- Awareness Raising Materials/Events - Toolkits for journalists, activists and civil servants
- Improving Legislation – Standard on Proactive Disclosure of Public Information, New Law on Access to Public Information, open data standards
- Legal Aid to Journalists
- Strategic Litigation
- Support public institutions to improve open data management systems (Strategies, Capacity Building, Open Data Portal Concept, etc.)
Thank you for your Attention!

Contact Details:

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Panel discussion: How open data can support our democracies

Place your questions in the chat!
Panel discussion

Inmaculada Farfan Velasco
Project Manager
Publications Office of the EU

Raphaël Kergueno
Policy officer,
EU Integrity Watch,
Transparency International EU

Teona Turashvili
Head of Local Government and Civic Tech and Innovation
Institute for Freedom of Information
Stay up-to-date on our 2023 activities!

• Webinar series on data spaces and open data – to be continued

• Webinar series dedicated to the Open Data Maturity dimensions – To be continued during July

• Webinar series dedicated to use cases continued – final edition on 30th of June

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Thank you