

# National Action Plan for Open Government and Open Public Data Hackathon in Greece

Submitted on 13 May 2014 by Charalambos Bratsas

Earlier this month, the “Presentation of the National Action Plan for Open Government” was held in Greece, an event carried out by the Ministry of Administrative Reform and e-Government in the National Hellenic Research Foundation.

The conference began with a welcome address from Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Minister of Administrative Reform and e-Governance, who placed particular emphasis on the impact that open government and open data initiatives can have in boosting innovation and entrepreneurship.

He stated that the Hellenic government should make every effort to help increase the adoption of open government and open data, stressing the importance of supporting innovation within small and medium enterprises (SMEs), calling it the only viable path to create new jobs in the country and address the immense unemployment issue (especially amongst young people).



The conference then welcomed Dr. Evy Christofilopoulou, Deputy Minister for Administrative Reform and e-Government and official representative of Hellas to the Open Government Partnership - who presented the Hellenic National Action Plan for Open Government.

She began her presentation by exploring how the recent economic crisis, together with an increased public perception of corruption, had led to a general mistrust between citizens and governmental bodies.

Unfortunately, the combination of these two factors reinforces a deep-rooted feeling of cynicism, civic disengagement, and disillusionment with administrative inefficiencies. She acknowledged that

there has been a gradual realization that open government can become a powerful tool towards the rejuvenation of this negative situation and as an enabler of administrative reform and development.

She also discussed the “Clarity Programme” which has been the Greek government’s flagship initiative for open government in the past 3 years. The open “*Clarity Portal*” provides free electronic access to all government documents, decisions and public spending information, thus achieving one of the goals for **proactive and real time transparency**.

Hellenic government, according to Dr. Evy Christofilopoulou, has promptly realised that open data needs to be one of the cornerstones for any open government initiative and that data has to be opened **now**. To further unlock public sector information, the Hellenic government is currently undertaking a new legislative initiative on open data, thereby embracing the principle of “**open by default**”.

Making data open by default with zero transaction costs for reuse is a key priority for the Hellenic Government in order to establish an ecosystem of **open, interoperable services for sharing and re-using public information**.

Dr. Christofilopoulou pointed to how these factors justify why the proposed bill will also harmonise national legislation with the provisions of Directive 2013/37, on the re-use of public sector information, way ahead of the transposition deadline (18 July 2015).

Three categories of data provide the main areas of focus for the following two years, these being - 1) the open provision of geodata, 2) data related to culture and 3) the offshore enterprises. Dr. Christofilopoulou emphasized that the Hellenic government already has (in an editable format) the list of the offshore enterprises that are placed in Hellas.

Next on the agenda were speeches from Mr. Athanasios Papaioannou, Secretary General of the Parliament on "Open Government" and the Hellenic Parliament, and Mr. Francisco Garcia Moran, EC's Chief IT Advisor on the ‘Presentation of the new Public Sector Information Directive and the decisions taken by the Commission on opening its own data with the data.eu portal’.

The conference concluded with the presentation of applications received during the "Open Public Data Hackathon" and the award ceremony of the winners. During the hackathon participants had the opportunity to reuse open public data that were gathered and made available online at <http://data.gov.gr>, in order to develop innovative applications and added value services.

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The winners of first prize were awarded 3000€, with second and third place taking home 2000€ and 1000€ respectively.

The top three winning applications were:

1<sup>st</sup> A.G.IN.A.R.A. : Produced by Mr. G. Panagopoulos and his team. The application is a smarter consumer consultant and profiteering combating application.

2<sup>nd</sup> Public Open Data Cloud: Developed by Mr.Saidis and Ms. A. A.Avramidis. An Application protocol Interface (API) for programmers' access to public open data

3<sup>rd</sup> Mobile Greek OpenGov Search App: Developed by Mr. E. Banos. A mobile web app for Android and iOS that enables full-text search in content of specific sets / collections of public open data.

The "Open Public Data Hackathon" is part of the implementation strategy for Open Government and participation of Hellas in the international initiative - Open Government Partnership, which marks the transition to an open, transparent and Collaborative Public Administration.

The [national action plan for the Open Governance](#) (2014-2016) was set under public deliberation on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. In relation to this, Deputy Minister Dr. Evy Christofilopoulou, made the following statement to the ePSI platform:

*“The Greek OGP commitments take all the aforementioned broader aspects of open government policies into account to form a blue-print of an operational plan for the next day of Hellas. A next day which will be led by the citizens, the communities and the entrepreneurs; a next day of sustainable development, inclusion and civic innovation. We strongly consider that organisations such as the [Open Knowledge Foundation Greece](#) can have a crucial and active role not only in the planned next day but also in the planning procedure of it.”*

Open Knowledge Foundation Greece, will actively participate to the deliberation process by

organizing a meeting at the end of May, inviting officials from the Administrative Reform and e-Governance Ministry. During the event, activities and suggestions will be presented as part of the national plan.