



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration



High level Open Data Conference - OGP ReSPA - DSP

14 June 2017, Brussels

Concept Paper and Agenda



Background

The Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) is the inter-governmental organization for enhancing regional cooperation, promoting shared learning and supporting the development of public administration in the Western Balkans. ReSPA Members are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, while Kosovo*¹ is a beneficiary and observer. ReSPA's purpose is to help governments in the region develop better public administration, public services and overall governance systems for their citizens and businesses, and prepare them for membership in the European Union (EU). Since its inception, ReSPA has contributed to the development of human resources and administrative capacities through training programmes and innovative cooperation mechanisms such as the exchange of good practices, peer reviews and development of know-how.

Based on (recommendations from) the study on e-Government and Open Data and following the conclusions from ReSPA eGovernment working group it was decided to organize high level conference devoted to Open Data in EUSDR. The event will be closely organized with Danube Strategy Point at Representation of Baden-Württemberg to EU in Brussels, Belgium. The event is also strongly supported by the Open Government Partnership (OGP), The United Nations Development Programme (regional hub in Istanbul), Regional Council of Cooperation (RCC), Electronic South East Initiative – eSEE, Open Contracting Partnership, and related think tanks.

The entire conference will be having social media coverage and the conference conclusions will be disseminated and presented to all relevant stakeholders at the EU, Danube region and in the Western Balkans. More importantly the conference conclusions, supported by political ownership, could serve as a basis for further development of policy field and implementation of concrete initiatives and projects in Danube region and broader.

The conference intends to bring together around 70 participants, Ministers of Danube region and Western Balkans, high level EC representatives, government officials from the region, representatives of relevant international organisations, representatives of Chamber of commerce, business sector associations and relevant civil society organisations. The press conference shall be held after the meeting of the present Ministers and high level EU officials.

Objectives

High level Open data conference will facilitate the exchange of views on the importance of Open Government, Open Data and Open Government Partnership in the governance reform

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Advisory opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence

process and institutional capacity building, including how could its interconnection and relation on eDemocracy and eParticipation. The discussion will contribute to EC strategy of transitioning to Digital Society using Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data and how Open Government and Open Data can open doors for Public Private and Public Civil Partnership. Conclusions and recommendations from the conference will one side verify and strengthen political ownership and support to institutional capacity building in the region, as well as present an important contribution to further development of the policy field and stimulate facilitation and preparation of concrete transnational cooperation and projects.

ReSPA beneficiaries are different in many terms but the Western Balkan (WB) region is strongly interlinked, with potential for further integration and growth. In regard to development related to the digital society, heterogeneity is de facto characteristic of the data infrastructures in the WB region. Quite similar to the WB region, heterogeneity is de facto characteristic of the data infrastructures in all countries included in Danube Region (whereby almost all EB countries are included). On the other hand, similar to how ReSPA was established, and in order to address common challenges together, EC and Danube Region countries jointly developed macro-regional strategy adopted by the EC in December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in 2011, called EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). EUSDR, quite similar to what ReSPA is seeking in regard to PAR in the WB region, seeks to create synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Danube Region.

Taking into account heterogeneity of the data infrastructures on the level of Danube region, the Joint Research Centre of the EC (JRC) and Danube region stakeholders have established the Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure (DRDSI), which is an open data infrastructure developed to support the EUSDR (strategy). In line with the importance of Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data to ReSPA supported PAR related efforts on the level of WB region, ReSPA its currently working on multiple assignments related to eParticipation, PPP/PCP², Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data.

Since some of the most important principles underlying the EU include cross-border cooperation and regional integration, and since EC is pursuing strategy of transitioning to Digital Society using Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data, ReSPA and EUSDR will make joint effort to cooperate on the common topic of Open Data.

High level Open data conference will outline many potential benefits of Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data as well as showcase developments in WB and Danube region. Meeting will analyze the barriers and recommended concrete measures that should be taken for Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data introduction,

² PPP – Public Private Partnership; PCP – Public Civil Partnership

as well as the possibilities for new initiatives such as e.g. Open Data Region. The planned output of the first part of the conference the adoption of conclusions by the present Ministers (on issues presented above). Participants in the continuation will jointly try to find answers to a very interesting question - what role and support could regional institutions such as ReSPA and cooperation framework such as EUSDR provide. The meeting will close with a discussion session, where the audience will be given the opportunity to propose additional topics for further investigation.

The representatives of beneficiaries from the respective region should be prepared to use this unique chance to peer with their colleagues from other countries, exchange experience and create future partnerships and possibilities for cooperation.

The representatives of beneficiaries from the respective region should be prepared to investigate how to use Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data to drive good management, help the free flow of data within and between organizations, and aid innovation, transparency and growth thus triggering both public sector modernization and overall improvement of the economy.

Target audience / Participants

Meeting is intended for ministerial-level and high level participants from respective region, high-level EC representatives, government officials from the EU, Danube region and Western Balkans, representatives of relevant international organisations, representatives of Chamber of commerce, Business sector associations and relevant civil society organisations. General public will be addressed through press conference planed after the ministerial meeting.

14 June 2017

Venue Brussels, Rue Belliard 60-62

9.00 - 9.15 Registration & coffee

9.15 - 9.35 Welcome and introduction

Bernard Brunet, DG NEAR

Jean-Francois Junger, Deputy Head of the Public Services Unit, DG CONNECT:

Ratka Sekulovic ReSPA Director

Representative of Emilia Romagna

Danube Strategy Point Director (tbc)

Moderator: Goran Pastrovic, ReSPA

9.35 – 9.50 Open (Government) Data in Governance

Edwin Lau, Head of the Reform of the Public Sector Division in the OECD

Moderator: Stefan Friedrichs

9.50 - 10.05 The importance of Open Government, Open Data and Open Government Partnership

Paul Maassen, Open Government Partnership

Moderator: Matija Vilfan

10.05 – 10.20 Open Data and eGovernance a motor towards more transparent and efficient governance and cooperation in the region – UNDP experience

Shelley Inglis, Team leader for governance and peace-building,

UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

Moderator: Matija Vilfan

10.20 -10.35 Discussion

10.35 -11.00 Coffee break

11.00 - 12.00 Panel Discussion: Open Government, Open Government Data & Open Data region

Panelists: Lejla Sadiku - UNDP, Maja Handijska – Trendafilova – RCC, Jean Dusart (tbc) - Joint Research Centre, Juan Navas-Sabater -



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*World Bank, World Wide Web Foundation (tbc), DIGIWHIST – the Digital Whistleblower (tbc);
Moderators: Stefan Friedrichs and Goran Pastrovic*

12.00 -12.20 Discussion and adoption of the conclusions

12.20-12.35 Hand In Hand – Open (Government) Data and eParticipation

*Heleen Vollers, Capgemini
Moderator: Stefan Friedrichs*

12.35-12.45 Discussion

12.45 -13.45 Lunch break

13.45 -14.00 How Open (Government) Data open doors for PPP/PCP?

*Gavin Hayman, Executive Director, Open Contracting Partnership
Moderator: Matija Vilfan*

14.00 - 14.15 Transition to Digital Society with Open (Government) Data

*Dennis Anderson, St. Francis College, New York City
Group discussion
Moderator: Stefan Friedrichs*

14.30 Discussion and wrap – up of the meeting

14.30 - 15.15 Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World

** DG Research and Innovation
* RCC
Q&A
Moderator: Zorana Gajic, ReSPA*

15.15 -15.30 Final conclusions and closing of the event

Goran Pastrovic and Ratka Sekulovic, ReSPA Director

Notice: *Agenda will be subject to change until finalized when it will be officially communicated.*