

SUBMISSION #1

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
<b>Invest in National Statistics to Allow Disaggregation of Data Across Major Social Categories</b>	
Proposed action Start and End Date (e.g. 1 January 2022 ongoing)	
<b>Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)</b>	<i>The National Statistics Board and the Central Statistics Office (under the aegis of the Department of the Taoiseach)</i>
Proposed Action Description	
<b>What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?</b>	<i>The State annually makes multi-billion euro investments specifically designed to serve the needs of people with disabilities, children, older people, carers, etc. Yet, many national statistical datasets do not permit the relevant data to be disaggregated on the basis of these categories or to be analysed with sufficient accuracy using sub-divisions of the data. As a result, it is impossible to do nuanced analysis of the needs or activities of different population cohorts in the economy, society, as users of public services, etc. The availability of such data would not only enhance transparency and accountability (core objectives of the Open Government Partnership) but they would also allow much better analysis of value-for-money, cost-effectiveness and the achievement of outcomes by the State's investments in public service provision and national strategies.</i>
<b>What is the proposed action?</b>	<p><i>It would be timely to initiate a process to consider the Irish statistical landscape from a policy perspective – what do we know; what do we not know and what do we want to know. The objective being to ensure that in as policy emphasis and focus evolve in response to society/citizens needs that the data is available to underpin evidence informed policy making and also to identify emerging areas of societal concern in social policy.</i></p> <p><i>1. Review existing national statistics and conduct a survey of stakeholders (including community and voluntary</i></p>

	<p>organisations) to identify the major categories of interest and the data gaps that exist. For example, all of the protected characteristics under the Equality Acts would be categories of interest, and investment is needed to ensure data can be analysed by reference to those grounds (family status, ethnicity, age, etc.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Develop and implement statistical guidelines to ensure that national statistics use questions and methods to allow for the disaggregation of data on the basis of the major categories of interest.</li> <li>3. Where necessary, invest in the research that generates national statistics – for example, where necessary to increase sample sizes in order to allow for meaningful and statistically accurate disaggregation of data.</li> </ol>
<p>How will the proposed action contribute to solving the public problem?</p>	<p>A thorough review and analysis of gaps in national statistics, accompanied by investment and actions to fill those gaps, will permit Government departments, public agencies and other stakeholders to achieve a greater level of evidence-informed policymaking, potentially saving millions of euro in public spending by using better data to better direct resources to where they will better achieve the outcomes of public policy.</p> <p>As a concrete example, In 1991, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted General Comment No. 4: The Right to Adequate Housing. Alongside defining adequate housing under the Convention of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The document also gave states an immediate obligation of “effective monitoring of the situation with respect to housing”. In 2021, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission published <i>Monitoring Adequate Housing in Ireland</i>, which examined the available data under the seven grounds of adequate housing from a rights perspective. While this represents a valuable step forward, the report was unable to combine the data to identify the total number of households living in inadequate housing. In other words, thirty years later, Ireland still cannot identify the number of households living in inadequate housing, which should be an essential prior requirement of the various policies that exist to remediate inadequate housing (such as home insulation grants, Fuel Allowance, inspection of rental tenancies, etc.). Having better</p>

	<p><i>knowledge of the categories of person (e.g. by age, ethnicity, etc.) living in inadequate housing should provide a range of public agencies with the data the need to plan their activities.</i></p> <p><i>This is not an isolated example. Irish crime statistics have carried a CSO quality warning label (“statistics under reservation”) for several years now. Data from Ireland is not infrequently missing or not up to date in Eurostat or OECD comparison with other countries. Insufficient data is available to allow analysis of important sub-categories of the population, such as older people at work, pensioners renting in the private rental sector, the social mobility of the children of migrant workers. And so on. A thorough review of national statistics is needed to provide a solid foundation for social policies and other policies that should be much more strongly informed by evidence.</i></p>												
<p><b>Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?</b></p>	<p><i>Relevant outcomes would include better research (public sector, academic and non-governmental) on categories of the population represented by major social categories of interest.</i></p> <p><i>In real terms, the benefits could include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Better understanding of the experience of older persons or people with disabilities in the labour market</i></li> <li><i>• Better understanding of how migrants use public services</i></li> <li><i>• Better understanding of gaps in public service provision</i></li> </ul>												
<p><b>Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?</b></p>	<p><i>Mark ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ in response</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="662 1713 1388 1971"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i></td> <td>YES</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Civic participation</i></td> <td></td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Public Accountability</i></td> <td>YES</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>	YES		<i>Civic participation</i>		NO	<i>Public Accountability</i>	YES	
	Yes	No											
<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>	YES												
<i>Civic participation</i>		NO											
<i>Public Accountability</i>	YES												

<p>Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?</p>	<p><i>Disaggregation of national statistics will make billions of euro of annual public spending and the outputs of public services more transparent to major social categories (representing millions of citizens), such as older persons, people with disabilities, migrants, etc.</i></p> <p><i>The analysis made possible by the provision of disaggregated national statistics will allow non-government organisations in civil society to conduct analysis to hold officials to account. The existence of these statistics will also allow Government departments and public agencies to conduct or commission analysis to appraise value for money, cost-effectiveness of strategies or programmes, etc.</i></p>
<p>What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate to (if known)?</p>	<p><i>Many SDGs require sufficient disaggregated data so that progress and achievement of the goals can be monitored.</i></p> <p><i>Of particular relevance:</i></p> <p><i>1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions</i></p> <p><i>5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels</i></p> <p><i>8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value</i></p> <p><i>10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status</i></p> <p><i>10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard</i></p> <p><i>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</i></p>

	<p><i>17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships</i></p> <p><i>17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts</i></p>		
<p><b>Additional information (if known)</b></p>	<p><i>In the Programme for Government: Under the National Digital Strategy “Further develop Ireland’s leadership in new digital technologies, including cloud computing, data analytics, blockchain, Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence.”</i></p> <p><i>“Establishing a ‘Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS)’ type programme for health, providing GP practices, community pharmacies and public health staff with dedicated additional resources to communities, focused on improved health outcomes and driven by strong data.”</i></p> <p><i>Under public sector reform, “Create a strategic policy unit for the complex data analysis, programme evaluation and policy development within each department charged with delivery in such core areas.”</i></p> <p><i>The disaggregation of data is relevant to the National Statistics Board’s strategic priorities for official statistics. <a href="https://www.nsb.ie/publications/">https://www.nsb.ie/publications/</a></i></p> <p><i>The disaggregation of data is a longstanding request of many organisations in the community and voluntary sector, and is highly relevant to the Department of Rural and Community Development’s ‘Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland (2019-2024)’.</i></p>		
<p><b>Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation</b></p>	<p><b>Who / What organisation (if known)</b></p>	<p><b>When (if known)</b></p>	<p><b>Additional info.</b></p>

<i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify relevant statistical datasets</li> </ul>	NSB/ CSO/ DPER	ASAP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult with stakeholders to identify major categories of interest</li> </ul>	NSB / CSO	3 month process	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review relevant datasets and identify the extent to which they can be disaggregated by major categories of interest</li> </ul>	NSB / CSO	6 months process	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review whether low-cost changes can be made (e.g. adding questions, refining questions) to gather sufficient data to allow for the meaningful disaggregation of national datasets</li> </ul>	NSB / CSO	Part of step 4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and consult on draft guidelines to ensure a named set of national datasets allow for the disaggregation of data</li> </ul>	NSB	3 month process	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish guidelines</li> </ul>	NSB	1 month process	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify where investment is needed to increase sample size or otherwise strengthen the data gathering/research that generates national statistics.</li> </ul>	DPER	Preparation for Budget 2023 onwards	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in priority datasets to ensure disaggregation of data is possible by the major categories of interest</li> </ul>	DPER	Budget 2023 onwards	
<b>Contact information</b>			
Lead contact name (required)	Nat O'Connor		

Organisation (if applicable)		n/a	
Role title (if applicable)		n/a	
Email and Phone (required)		[REDACTED]	
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)		PhD political science, 20 years' experience of public policy analysis, research and university teaching	
For GDPR purposes (required)		We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	YES
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency		
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups		
<b>Transparency:</b>  <b>Publication and Freedom of Information Act</b>		<i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i>  <i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i>	

X


*Please do not publish my email address and telephone number as I am making this submission as a private citizen.*



# SUBMISSION # 2

**Criona Brassill (PER)**

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**From:** C.Hurley [REDACTED]   
**Sent:** Saturday 20 November 2021 22:28  
**To:** Ireland Open Government Partnership  
**Subject:** Suspect URL Detected--Open Government Ideas Submission

Hello,

1. Educate and support citizens in respect of their rights to a wide array of direct and indirect data relating to environmental issues under the Aarhus Convention (Dept. Environment, Climate and Communications). This would include information, for example, about data centres and their energy use. Research shows reluctance to fulfil requirements, meaning citizens suffer.
2. Even if actions are signed up to, they may not be effected. Another case in point is the dire failure of the Irish Data Protection Commission to manage GDPR enforcement against Big Tech across the EU, creating a bottleneck of huge convenience to companies tempted to break or bend rules. Commitments to accountability need law and political will behind them.
3. Recommendations by Gavin Sheridan and Ken Foxe who work tirelessly to promote better Freedom of Information conditions, qualify them as partners in any Irish open government plans. As they go 'pushing for transparency', their journalistic work at Right to Know reveals how refusals by state bodies to share public information are all too common.
4. The Dept. Defence is missing from the Programme for Govt. table. Including goals for this area would show genuine aspiration to the principles. Defence administration globally is known to be especially vulnerable to corruption, and to have a habit of non-disclosure despite material relevance to the environment, for example. Despite being constitutionally neutral, Ireland through PESCO has been increasing military involvement. The public interest case not just to inform but to consult citizens on intensifying armed and related surveillance activities in this or any way is irrefutable.
5. It has to be continually recognised that engaging with policy to this level is a major challenge for many, making big demands on attention and time. Citizens like to trust as much as possible that their public representatives, with public service staff, are competent enough to ensure what should be done more centrally gets done on their behalves. Simplifying access to key information and communication channels is important, notwithstanding diverse mindsets and abilities. I attended one 'town-hall' on the CAP held online by DAFM where several attendees complained it really was nothing like a town-hall session because their videos and audios were turned off throughout, with only the chat and q & a functions left to participants to express anything. Participants did receive a link to the video after, with a log of comments.

I made a submission on the mining and mineral exploration policy, which was followed up by particularly clear and professional, perhaps model, communications by the Geoscience Policy Division about what would be done with my data and ensuring they had appropriate consents.

The online event launching the Climate Action Plan by DECC was accompanied by continuous messages on chat which were unfailingly civilised, partly monitored by civil servants, and facilitated by a friendly equal atmosphere. Yet, in-person presence, or even the option of it, seems to leave most people with a more authentic feeling of being listened to. When this is not possible, as seems to be the position for the foreseeable future, including one or two short interludes for break-out conversation in small groups can improve the sense of participation.

Best wishes,

Caroline Hurley

# SUBMISSION #3

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Proposed action	
Proposed action Start and End Date (e.g., 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023) Start 6 <sup>th</sup> of December 2021 – 31 <sup>st</sup> of March 2022	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	<p><b>Utilise the work done by various PPNs to expedite the work for the Disability sector.</b></p> <p>Lead Department: The Department of Disability.</p> <p>Supported by the following Departments - Justice, Reform, health, mental health, Inclusion and Equality. Liaise with the Disability matters Oireachtas committee.</p> <p>The most informed person I have met in this area is a former employee of the DFI, Toni Gleeson. She is now retired and lives in Tipperary to the best of my knowledge.</p> <p>While I have acquired much experience and knowledge, Toni would be an excellent lady to assist at a macro level.</p> <p><i>To help us: If known, please share the work contact details for any official who would be able provide us with additional background and/or a status update of ongoing work in the policy areas pertaining to your proposed action.</i></p>
Proposed Action Description	
What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?	<p><b>To expedite the rights of the disability sector under the UN convention (UNCRPD) This work is significantly delayed since the ratification of the convention in 2018.</b></p> <p>There are a number of cultural challenges which need to be attended to, in legislation, policy and associated areas. Clearly many of the associated stakeholders will require additional training.</p> <p><b>At a minimum and it is long overdue – No person with a disability, who is engaging with authorities, should have their human or civil rights compromised.</b></p> <p>There are a number of practical steps which can assist here; greater use of the PPS numbers, colour coding of documents for those presenting in court, to ensure that there are no human violations or indignation experienced.</p>

Tip: Describe **The Social**; - The moral compass for such leadership is immeasurable. The priorities and value system by our State.

"A Nation should not be Judged by how it treats its highest citizens but it's lowest ones" Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom.

#### **Economic,**

With the additional funding from Europe, leader funding the Wheel, advances in broadband, the incentives to work from home, greater focus on the communities etc, there should be numerous opportunities for this sector.

Ideally a designated office - person in each County would take responsibility for such developments – with clear communication – direction from the relevant Department.

This sector needs fluid systems, creative thinking, pragmatism, patience, understanding and supports.

While the circumstances are unique to each individual, if the appropriate supports are in place there is a significant return for the individual, communities, society and the State.

This is in line with Maslow's hierarchy of needs model for individuals, society and the State.

#### **Political,**

This is an opportunity for the politicians to step outside their comfort zone. For the Oireachtas committee to spend the next 4 years sitting – it is uncalled for and unnecessary.

A charge that is frequently shared is that policy is not equitable, inclusive, incremental etc.

This initiative affords an opportunity to address such for some of the more marginalised in society.

There is a need for much greater incentives to be issued by Government to the relevant sectors to facilitate securing the Lead entities necessary to access funding through the Wheel.

Similarly the Leader funding – There may be merit in separating the funding requirements from the other aspects of the due diligence which is necessary as the current arrangements are just not working.

I was advised by my Partnership company "The odds are stacked against you" in trying to advance a project.

	<p>Similar experiences now with the Wheel. Blaze approach by the lead entities I've contacted, not well informed, limited commitment, no urgency etc.</p> <p><b>Environmental</b></p> <p>Having participated in numerous meetings with the DRCD, there are significant passions and commitments in communities to contribute to environmental projects.</p> <p>The opportunity for many to work from home or in their community will support additional endeavours here.</p> <p>For the disability sector, with the required cohesion and leadership through the LAs, there is no reason why many in the disability sector can't make a significant contribution to their communities, tidy towns, avail of leader funds etc</p>
<p><b>What is the proposed action?</b></p>	<p>Utilise the work in the attached reports undertaken by a number of PPNs – including Laois, Wexford and a similar exercise was undertaken in Kerry, to expedite the work of the Disability matters Orieachatas committee.</p> <p>These involved significant consultations with the sector and stakeholders.</p> <p>In Laois we had public representatives and a member of the DFI participate in compiling our report also.</p> <p><i>Tip: Describe what the proposed action involves, its expected results, and overall objective. When considering this question, the next question and the later question on 'suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation', will help refine and clarify and focus your proposed action.</i></p>
<p><b>How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?</b></p>	<p>This will ensure that significant progress is made to advance the cause of the 600K people in Ireland impacted by Disability.</p> <p>With the necessary advances made to assist those who can return to the work force either in main stream with supports, the public sector (due to be increased from 3% to 6%) for people with disabilities, working from home, in the community, through the advance in broadband, can all make a significant contribution to advancing the cause of the sector and the investments at a macro level.</p>

	<p>The Pharmaceutical sector could I believe make a contribution to assist Government in advancing the cause of this sector also. Pro-rata the disability sector invariably makes a much greater contribution to the pharma sector.</p> <p>This together with the returns during the pandemic has made such a proposition likely with the PR returns which follow.</p> <p>Such commitments can also assist in advancing the renewed focus on communities and in assisting to advance environmental projects through the tidy towns and similar initiatives.</p> <p>Much greater cohesion with the LAs can assist in targeting individuals and providing the necessary supports accordingly.</p> <p>There needs to much greater emphasis put on the ability rather than the disabilities. This requires leadership, sincerity, commitment, sustained efforts, PR exercises etc.</p> <p><i>Tip: Describe how the proposed action will contribute to solving the problem or/and influence government practice towards addressing the problem. In order to do this, explain how the proposed commitment will be implemented in conjunction with the later question 'suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation'. Provide a clear description of how the milestones listed will achieve what the proposed action sets out to do and obtain the expected results that will contribute to solving the problem.</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?</b></p>	<p>Under the 4 heading: Housing, transport, economic and community, in the attached report 'Access for all' compiled through the Laois PPN – A planning consultant can assist with advancing the primary and secondary stakeholders etc. This was the considered view of the aforementioned Toni Gleeson (former employee of the DFI)</p> <p>This is an enhanced version of the JAM (Just a minute) card directive through the DRCD.</p> <p>By focusing on a regional approach, this may afford an opportunity to refine aspects as policy is advanced.</p> <p>Much more fluid mechanisms to avail of Leader funding and grant aid via the Wheel.</p>

	<p>Many of the current strands are territorial; don't access "unsolicited contacts" which leaves individuals exposed. Cohesion, unity of purpose and consistency is key here.</p> <p><i>To help us: While recognising that it is often challenging, please share with us any suggested way of measuring how members of the public would benefit from the proposed action and/or measuring the effect of the proposed action.</i></p>												
<p>Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?</p>	<p>Mark 'Yes' or 'No' in response</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="662 734 1391 1028"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Transparency <i>(i.e. access to information)</i></td> <td>√</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civic participation</td> <td>√</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Accountability</td> <td>√</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Tip: Use the following questions to guide your response:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Is the proposed action disclosing more information, improving the quality of the information disclosed, improving accessibility of information to the public or enabling the right to information? If yes, this proposed action is relevant to <b>Transparency (i.e. access to information).</b></i></li> <li>• <i>Is the proposed action creating or improving opportunities, or capabilities for the public to inform or influence decisions? Is the proposed commitment creating or improving the enabling environment for civil society? If yes, this proposed action is relevant to <b>civic participation.</b></i></li> <li>• <i>Is the proposed action creating or improving rules, regulations, and mechanisms to publicly hold government officials answerable to their actions? If yes, the proposed action is relevant to <b>public accountability.</b></i></li> </ul>		Yes	No	Transparency <i>(i.e. access to information)</i>	√		Civic participation	√		Public Accountability	√	
	Yes	No											
Transparency <i>(i.e. access to information)</i>	√												
Civic participation	√												
Public Accountability	√												

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Is the proposed action enhancing the use of technology and innovation to enable public involvement in government and will enhance at least one of: access to information, public participation, or public accountability?</i> <i>If yes, the proposed action is relevant to that value(s), either transparency (i.e. access to information); civic participation and/or public accountability.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?</p>	<p>As one involved on the PPNs at County and national level – I am aware of the frustration there is around the delays and lack of commitments in advancing the sector as outlined at national and European level.</p> <p>This initiative addresses all of the values outlined in the Open Government values which I applied for.</p> <p>I wish all six who were chosen all the very best in their new roles.</p> <p>I am happy to continue to support in any way I can to assist in advancing this sector, via the Round table, the PPNs, the LAs, at a European level etc.</p>
<p>What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?</p>	<p>Inclusion, equality, community development, diversity, minority group, are all enhanced through such commitments</p> <p>Also mental well being, disposable incomes, etc.</p> <p><i>Please state the SDG goal (and sub-group).</i></p> <p><i>Tip: The Sustainable Development Goals and sub-goals are outlined on the <a href="#">United Nation website</a>. Note also, the <a href="#">Irish website</a> with relevant data and case studies.</i></p>
<p>Additional information (if known)</p>	<p><i>Use this optional space to provide other information on the wider context of your proposed action</i></p> <p><i>Tip: For example you may wish to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Links to the <a href="#">Programme for Government</a> (1506 commitments)</i></li> <li>● <i>Links to other government programs (for example for civic participation maybe one of the actions in Department of Rural and Community Development's <a href="#">'Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities:</a></i></li> </ul>



	<p><i>A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland (2019-2024)' might be relevant.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Links to Ireland's National Development Plan 'Project Ireland 2040' or other sectoral or local plans.</i></li> </ul>		
Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation <i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i>	Who / What organisation <i>(if known)</i>	When <i>(if known)</i>	Additional info.
Avail of a planning consultant. Get all PPNs and similar entities to share their work todate.	PPNs, LAs		See attached
<b>Contact information</b>			
Lead contact name (required)			
Organisation (if applicable)	Social inclusion Laois Secretariat and National Secretariat		
Role title (if applicable)	Post Grad in management		
Email and Phone (required)	xxx		
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)	Social reforms, social inclusion, disability, mental well being, project management, management,		
For GDPR purposes (required)	We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	Yes √	No



Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	
<p>Transparency:</p> <p>Publication and Freedom of Information Act</p>		<p><i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i></p> <p><i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i></p>

# SUBMISSION # 4

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
<p>Proposed action: <b>Open Government Strategy</b></p>	
<p>Proposed action Start and End Date: Strategy development with oversight from the OGP Roundtable over 12 months, and implementation/review ongoing thereafter over the lifetime of the Strategy.</p>	
<p>Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)</p>	<p>Department of Public Expenditure and Reform</p>
Proposed Action Description	
<p>What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?</p>	<p>The Government's commitment to developing an OGP National Action Plan (NAP) is welcome, but the tight drafting deadlines and limited timescales do not allow for the development of a long-term vision or commitments that run beyond the NAP's two-year period. As noted by then Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohue, in the 2018 OGP NAP: 'The commitments chosen by the Government for inclusion in this plan are those that can be delivered in that time'. In addition, and in our experience, few commitments are made in the NAP that have not already been set out in the Programme for Government or carried over from previous commitments. There is also little evidence of awareness and buy-in for the initiative across government.</p>
<p>What is the proposed action?</p>	<p>A commitment to developing and implementing a comprehensive, long-term <b>Open Government Strategy</b> is required if OGP commitments and wider systemic reform of transparency and accountability mechanisms are to be embedded effectively across government and the civil and public service.</p> <p>Development of the Strategy should begin with a public consultation and comprehensive review of, <i>inter alia</i>, record keeping, e-government (including e-procurement), and proactive publication of data and documents, with the aim of identifying areas requiring greater transparency and suggesting the mechanisms by which this can be achieved</p>

	<p>Among the objectives that should be considered in the course of devising the Strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Statutory duty to make and retain official records:</b> This would include a requirement that all public officials make and retain accurate records of all meetings and correspondence (including text messages) and store them for as long as they are required for accountability purposes. If records do not exist, then there should be a presumption that they have been destroyed or there was negligence or maladministration.</li> <li>• <b>Proactive transparency:</b> This would require digitisation and proactive publication of all records held by government departments and non-commercial public bodies, subject to statutory data protection and commercial confidentiality requirements. This Information would include details of all procurement contracts awarded and progress toward their fulfilment; calendars and agendas of all office holders, including Chief Executives of Local Authorities; and records of meetings between lobbyists/interest groups and senior officials or Ministers.</li> <li>• <b>Legislative footprint:</b> The Houses of the Oireachtas Commission, in collaboration with the Standards in Public Office Commission, should consider creating a web-based 'legislative footprint' to allow the public to see the input of different groups and individuals in shaping laws. This would involve the cross-referencing of information using hyperlinks to returns made by lobbyists recorded on the register of lobbying, as well as published submissions in response to public on the relevant legislation on the relevant Bills and Acts page of the Oireachtas website. It is worth noting that the government made a commitment to introduce a legislative footprint in its <u>first Open Government Partnership National Action Plan</u>.</li> </ul> <p>The OGP Roundtable would oversee the drafting of the Strategy over a twelve-month period, with Government seeking cross-party support on its contents.</p>
<p>How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?</p>	<p>The Open Government Strategy would be far more ambitious than a NAP in guiding future commitments to</p>

	<p>open government standards. Rather than rearticulating or reframing existing commitments, or focussing on specific actions (e.g., previous objectives such as a Register of Beneficial Ownership, commitment to climate policy transparency etc.), the Strategy would set aspirational, long-term, strategic goals for transparency and accountability, with these aims underpinning the objectives of subsequent NAPs. It would provide a framework beyond the lifetime of a particular cycle or government and set out an overarching roadmap for open government in Ireland. In doing so, the Strategy would address the interconnected problems, outlined above, of the NAP's short-term horizon and the need for ambitious targets.</p> <p>A longer-term Open Government Strategy would also raise awareness of open government ideals and the direction of travel in this respect, and would require greater ongoing buy-in across government. Strategic aims such as proactive transparency would require a wholesale cultural shift, complementing the NAP's commitments to specific actions by designated stakeholders. Reviews of the Strategy and its implementation would ensure that the broader principles of open government are embedded across Government and State activities, where the NAP review mechanism would continue to evaluate the implementation of discrete objectives.</p>
<p><b>Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?</b></p>	<p>The successful implementation of an Open Government Strategy would see the principles of transparency, civic participation and public accountability embedded into all government/public body activities. For instance, strategic aims such as proactive transparency and stronger obligations in relation to retaining records would contribute to normalising transparency and accountability as core responsibilities of all actors in all public bodies. As a long-term and overarching document, the Strategy would act as the roadmap guiding the ongoing shift toward a culture of accountability and would inform the development of specific, short-term objectives and discrete responsibilities during the two-year lifetime of the OGP NAP.</p> <p>The use of digital tools will be crucial to proactive transparency, both in terms of the initial collection/retention of information and in making it easily accessible in a form</p>

that can be readily used for comparison and analysis. The successful implementation of the Open Government Strategy would see these factors taken into account as a fundamental success factor in project planning and delivery, and wider use of user-friendly technologies in the publication of information.

The impact of a comprehensive, long-term Open Government Strategy could be measured through, for instance:

- a snapshot overview of the current level of transparency (e.g., extent of active public disclosure of data etc.) that allows for impact analysis;
- a similar exercise (or component of the overview) assessing the digital accessibility of information;
- a baseline survey assessing awareness of open government principles and commitment to them among those working in the sector, as well as the experiences of members of the public, with a follow-up evaluation of attitudes and experiences at a suitable interval following the implementation of the Strategy.

Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?		Yes	No
	<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>	x	
	<i>Civic participation</i>	x	
	<i>Public accountability</i>	x	

Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?

The Open Government Strategy would aim to put in place the infrastructure across government to make more information more readily accessible to the public and to place the values of transparency and accountability at the core of all activities. In creating stronger requirements for record-keeping, requiring records to be made publicly available as a matter of course, and making full use of digital tools to link, compare and analyse information, the Strategy would reinforce civic participation in the democratic process by equipping members of the public with an understanding of the elements at play in policy-making as well as the information and tools to make their own contribution.

<p>What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?</p>	<p>SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery</li> <li>• Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions</li> <li>• Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making</li> <li>• Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms</li> </ul>		
<p>Additional information (if known)</p>	<p>Additional recommendations aimed at promoting transparency and accountability have been made in numerous TI Ireland publications and submissions since 2009 – all of which are available at <a href="https://www.transparency.ie/resources">https://www.transparency.ie/resources</a>.</p>		
<p>Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation <i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i></p>	<p>Who / What organisation (if known)</p>	<p>When (if known)</p>	<p>Additional info.</p>
<p>Review of current record-keeping obligations</p>	<p>DPER</p>		
<p>Assessment of <i>status quo</i> regarding proactive transparency, e.g. which FoI bodies are in line with Model Publication Scheme requirements, existing good practices in areas indicated etc.</p>	<p>DPER</p>		
<p>Legislative Footprint</p>	<p>DPER</p>		
<p>Assessment of transparency culture/knowledge of OGP initiative and open government principles across government</p>	<p>DPER</p>		
<p>Development of Open Government Strategy</p>	<p>OGP Roundtable</p>		
<p>Contact information</p>			
<p>Lead contact name (required)</p>	<p>John Devitt</p>		
<p>Organisation (if applicable)</p>	<p>Transparency International Ireland</p>		
<p>Role title (if applicable)</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p>		



Email and Phone (required)		jkdevitt@transparency.ie, [REDACTED]			
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)		Corruption/Anti-Corruption; Transparency; Whistleblowing; Public Sector Ethics			
For GDPR purposes (required)		We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><u>Yes</u></td> <td>No</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Yes</u>	No
<u>Yes</u>	No				
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	The Department of the Taoiseach should play a leading role in promoting and communicating the Open Government Strategy to all key stakeholders (including all Government Departments) with day-to-day responsibility resting with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.			
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups				
Transparency: Publication and Freedom of Information Act		<p><i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i></p> <p><i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i></p>			



# SUBMISSION #5

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Proposed action: <b>Reform of the Electoral Act, 1997 (as amended)</b>	
Proposed action Start and End Date (e.g., 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023)	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Proposed Action Description	
What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?	<p>Any functioning democratic system requires that the rights of civil society to engage with policy makers on decisions that affect the public interest be upheld. Civil society organisations (CSOs) depend on a variety of funding sources to support their work in this area, including, for instance, substantial one-off contributions or multi-year grants, as well as financing from foundations abroad. It is right that these funding sources be subject to appropriate scrutiny and regulation.</p> <p>However, amendments made in 2001 to the Electoral Act 1997 impose the same donation and spending limits on civil society organisations advocating for reform as on political parties and other 'third parties' campaigning for a particular outcome to an election or referendum. These democratic processes must be protected from disproportionate influence by wealthy individuals and interest groups, including those outside the State; but the current wording of the Act can also capture the day-to-day activities of a range of civil society groups engaged in attempts to influence policy-making, unfairly limiting such organisations' attempts to fund their legitimate activities and contributions to a healthy civic space.</p> <p>It is important also to note that the impact of the Electoral Act's limits on funding apply only to organisations in receipt of donations. This means that other organisations that are not reliant on donations can carry out advocacy, campaigning and lobbying activities related to policy-making without the constraints faced by not-for-profit CSOs. It should be noted too that a cornerstone of Irish Aid, Ireland's official development assistance programme, is the provision</p>

	<p>of financial support to CSOs overseas, yet the Electoral Act in its current form may cut off analogous overseas support to CSOs here in Ireland.</p> <p>Organisations such as the Standards in Public Office Commission have highlighted the potentially disproportionate impact of current legal provisions on civil society in Ireland, and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, for example, has expressed similar concerns.</p>												
<p><b>What is the proposed action?</b></p>	<p>Section 22 of the Electoral Act should be amended to limit the scope of its definition of ‘political purposes’ by removing the sweeping inclusion of activities carried out ‘in relation to a policy or policies or functions of the Government or any public authority’ and limiting the definition specifically to activities carried out in campaigning for a particular outcome in an election or referendum.</p>												
<p><b>How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?</b></p>	<p>Amending Section 22 of the Electoral Act as proposed will remove the threat to and chilling effect on civil society by allowing CSOs to carry out their ongoing policy-related advocacy while in receipt of funding outside the parameters prescribed in the Act. It would retain appropriate limitations on funding of campaigns (by political parties, candidates and third parties) in connection with specific elections and referenda, safeguarding these from undue interference as intended by the legislation.</p>												
<p><b>Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?</b></p>	<p>Civil society organisations will be able to fund their activities from a variety of sources (subject to other existing controls, regulations and reporting requirements), without fear of running afoul of funding restrictions incompatible with a flourishing civic sphere and fundamental rights of participation in the democratic process.</p>												
<p><b>Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?</b></p>	<p><i>Mark ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ in response</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="660 1765 1390 2018"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Civic participation</i></td> <td>x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Public accountability</i></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>			<i>Civic participation</i>	x		<i>Public accountability</i>		
	Yes	No											
<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>													
<i>Civic participation</i>	x												
<i>Public accountability</i>													

Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?	CSOs are a primary vehicle for civic participation. At all levels, they bring members of the public together to make valuable contributions to public policy, and act as participant and watchdog in the democratic process. The proposed amendment to the current legislation has a direct, concrete impact on the promotion and facilitation of civic participation.		
What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?	SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions		
Additional information (if known)	<p>See also submissions made by the ICCL and TI Ireland:  <a href="https://www.iccl.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ICCL-Submission-on-The-General-Scheme-of-the-Electoral-Reform-Bill-2020-1-1.pdf">https://www.iccl.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ICCL-Submission-on-The-General-Scheme-of-the-Electoral-Reform-Bill-2020-1-1.pdf</a> ;  <a href="https://www.transparency.ie/resources/submissions/electoral-acts-third-party-provisions">https://www.transparency.ie/resources/submissions/electoral-acts-third-party-provisions</a>.</p> <p>Senator Lynn Ruane tabled a Private Member’s Bill aimed at reforming the Third Party provisions in the Electoral Act. The Bill is currently at second stage in the Seanad:  <a href="https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2019/35/">https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2019/35/</a> .</p>		
Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation <i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i>	Who / What organisation <i>(if known)</i>	When <i>(if known)</i>	Additional info.
Electoral Reform Bill 2020 enacted	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Oireachtas	2022	

Contact information					
Lead contact name (required)		John Devitt			
Organisation (if applicable)		Transparency International Ireland			
Role title (if applicable)		Chief Executive			
Email and Phone (required)		ikdevitt@transparency.ie [REDACTED]			
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)		Corruption/Anti-Corruption; Transparency; Whistleblowing; Public Sector Ethics			
For GDPR purposes (required)		We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><u>Yes</u></td> <td>No</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Yes</u>	No
<u>Yes</u>	No				
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	N/A			
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	TI Ireland is a member of The Coalition for Civil Society Freedom which has sought reform of the Electoral Act. More information is available at <a href="https://www.iccl.ie/human-rights/coalition-civil-society-freedom/">https://www.iccl.ie/human-rights/coalition-civil-society-freedom/</a> .			
Transparency: Publication and Freedom of Information Act		<p><i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i></p> <p><i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment</i></p>			

	<p><i>function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i></p>
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# SUBMISSION #6

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Increase transparency and anticorruption during the implementation of Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) and in all public spending	
Proposed action Start and End Date (e.g., 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023)	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	Office of Public Procurement
Proposed Action Description	
What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?	<p>There are currently insufficient mechanisms for citizens and residents of Ireland to have visibility on and open access to European funding data. Given the huge scale of the funding, there is a critical need for improving public awareness and understanding of funding; as well as the opportunity for analysis, scrutiny, and proof of the proper use of funds. Specifically, there is a need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the full trail of funding from Europe to local beneficiaries open and accessible.</li> <li>• Make the language and type of documentation on projects and their financing easy to understand and accessible to audiences with less literacy in these matters;</li> <li>• Active support for civil society in their functions on raising awareness, analysis and reporting on the data.</li> </ul>
What is the proposed action?	<p>Data on all contract beneficiaries of contracts, loans and grants funded through the European Resilience and Recovery Fund, should be published on the Open Data Portal so that it that can be freely used, re-used and shared by anyone for any purpose.</p> <p>Specifically, the data should be provided in open, standardised and structured data with unique identifiers linking data across the whole contracting cycle, from procurement planning to the final payments and evaluation. The most widely accepted way to do that is using Open Contracting data Standard (OCDS). All RRF-related contracting processes and budget lines with "RRF" (or</p>

	similar) to ensure that all information linked to RRF can be filtered out from the rest of procurement information and stored centrally and used for further analysis												
How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?	<p>The implementation of this commitment will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Transparency of European funds implementation;</li> <li>● Prevention of corruption and misuse of public funds;</li> <li>● The strengthening of citizens' confidence in the sound management of public funds.</li> <li>● Enhance understanding of the European Union and\ European funding</li> </ul>												
Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?	<p>All grants, loans and contracts funded by the RRF and the beneficiaries of the funding are available as open data for querying and visualisation by the public and civil society leading to enhanced understanding, transparency, trust and proper and accountable spending of the RRF.</p> <p>Evidence from other countries has shown that open procurement data has resulted in:  Ukraine: <u>saved a reported 1 billion USD in two years, with huge public involvement</u>  Italy: <u>Monitoring of EU cohesion funds</u>  Slovakia: <u>Reported savings and decrease in corruption</u></p>												
Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?	<p>Mark 'Yes' or 'No' in response</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="662 1265 1394 1523"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civic participation</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Accountability</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	Transparency (i.e. access to information)	X		Civic participation	X		Public Accountability	X	
	Yes	No											
Transparency (i.e. access to information)	X												
Civic participation	X												
Public Accountability	X												
Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?	<p><b>Transparency:</b> by providing full information on RRF funding to Ireland and its local beneficiaries.</p> <p><b>Accountability:</b> The mechanism and ensuing transparency will support proper use of public funds, minimise opportunity for corruption and support accountability in the use and channelling of funds.</p> <p><b>Civic participation:</b> The information and mechanism enables the public to engage in learning, using and scrutinising of the</p>												



	funds. The information also builds capacity within civil society for meaningful engagement on the development and implementation of RRF strategies and planning actions.		
What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?	SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels		
Additional information (if known)	See 'What to Publish Under Recovery and Resilience Facility Spending: Open Spending EU Coalition Guidance to Member States' for civil society coalition's recommendations.		
Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation <i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i>	Who / What organisation (if known)	When (if known)	Additional info.
1. Set evaluation criteria for assessing the impact of the open procurement commitment together with civil society	DPER	Jan 2022 – June 2022	
2. Publish on the Open Data Portal all of the information on public investment in the different areas of implementation of the PRR, including implementation figures, beneficiaries and suppliers.	Department of Finance	March 2022- Dec 2023	
3. Develop a communication and awareness campaign on the data aimed at different audiences, including civil society organisations and journalists, promoting its use and communication of findings.	DEPR	March – September 2022	
4. Promote the development of civic monitoring tools to prevent corruption, including public procurement data visualization dashboards.	DEPR	Sept 2022- July 2023	
5. Evaluation and publish results on the impact of the open procurement data	DPER	October 2023	
<b>Contact information</b>			

Lead contact name (required)					
Organisation (if applicable)					
Role title (if applicable)					
Email and Phone (required)					
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)					
For GDPR purposes (required)		We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No
Yes	No				
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency				
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups				
<b>Transparency:</b>  <b>Publication and Freedom of Information Act</b>		<i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i>  <i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment</i>			

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	<i>function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i>
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# SUBMISSION #7

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Participatory Budgeting	
Proposed action Start and End Date (e.g., 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023)	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Proposed Action Description	
What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?	<p>There is currently insufficient awareness of and engagement in decision on the distribution of local taxes, specifically Local Property Tax. Decisions on distribution are made without engagement by the public in the process nor sufficient visibility on the value that the tax delivers in terms of local community benefit and services.</p> <p>Yet there is a huge opportunity to take action on this gap to empower communities with both knowledge and capacity to participate in the decision process, strengthening citizen empowerment in local governance, improving transparency and local outcomes.</p>
What is the proposed action?	<p>That the government initiates a trial programme with a number of local authorities in which a portion of Local Property Tax is made open for public deliberation on allocation by a representative random sample of citizens within a Municipal District.</p> <p>The initial pilot could be run with Municipal Districts where additional income from upward variation on the base rate is retained at the Municipal District level for allocation.</p> <p>In doing so, the process will raise awareness, understanding and ownership of the budgeting process.</p>
How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?	<p>The implementation of this commitment will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowerment of citizens in local governance and strengthening of public capacity and voice in local decision-making</li> <li>• Understanding of the local tax and allocation process</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased transparency in how local government and public service provision works</li> <li>• Increased accountability</li> <li>• Increased visibility on the impacts of the spend</li> </ul>												
Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?	<p>Annual local and inclusive deliberative assemblies at Municipal District level agreeing the allocation of a portion of Local Property Tax that strengthen citizen empowerment and engagement in local government.</p> <p>The process will aim to be scalable and replicable in terms of cost and ease of implementation. The data required for the simple random sampling is already available at local authority level i.e. electoral register.</p>												
Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?	<p>Mark 'Yes' or 'No' in response</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civic participation</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Accountability</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	Transparency (i.e. access to information)	x		Civic participation	X		Public Accountability	x	
	Yes	No											
Transparency (i.e. access to information)	x												
Civic participation	X												
Public Accountability	x												
Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?	<p>This proposed commitment brings Ireland's local budgeting process in line with advances in this area that have been happening internationally over the last 30 years. As Ireland does not have a national mechanism for secure voting on public funds, as is the case in other countries, then a deliberative approach is both more accountable as well as building meaningful dialogue and understanding of the process and how it impacts the various services provided by the Council and community groups.</p> <p>It is also a scalable model for local level assemblies on climate and social issues.</p>												
What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?	SGD 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels												
Additional information (if known)	Participatory budgeting was a commitment in the last National Action Plan and is currently included in the Programme for Government. This action can support the												

	government's commitment to the implementation of participatory budgeting in a new way that is tailored to Ireland's specific context.		
Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation <i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i>	Who / What organisation <i>(if known)</i>	When <i>(if known)</i>	Additional info.
1. Set evaluation criteria for assessing risk and success of the project	DHLGH	Feb 2022 – April 2022	
2. Call for interested Municipal Districts to apply to be part of the pilot programme for the 2022 LPT allocation	DHLGH	Jan 2022-Dec 2023	
3. Co-develop with stakeholders the process for running a pilot deliberative budgeting process.	DPER	March – September 2022	
4. Implement and monitor in pilot areas during the LPT allocation process in 2022-2023	Local authorities, DHLGH and DPER	Nov 2022- Feb 2023	
5. Evaluation and publish results on the pilot and build in learnings for a wider rollout where successful.	DPER	May 2023	
<b>Contact information</b>			
Lead contact name (required)	Cllr Vanessa Liston, Maynooth, Co. Kildare  Dr. Valesca Lima & Dr. Anthony Costello Participatory & Democracy Specialist Group of the Political Science Association of Ireland.  Kevin Mullen, Climate Response Ireland		
Organisation (if applicable)			
Role title (if applicable)			

Email and Phone (required)		[REDACTED]anessalistonkcc@gmail.com	
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)		Civic participation	
For GDPR purposes (required)		<p>We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p>X - VL</p>
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	Local authorities	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups		
<p>Transparency:</p> <p>Publication and Freedom of Information Act</p>		<p><i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i></p> <p><i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i></p>	



# SUBMISSION # 8

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Citizen deliberation and Public engagement policy and standards	
Proposed action Start and End Date (e.g., 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023)	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) Dept of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
Proposed Action Description	
What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?	<p>There is need for informed, developed and consistent standards for public engagements across all government and local government sectors. These standards are required to ensure that all engagements empower citizens and build trust in the democratic system. All engagements whether they are consultations, or deliberative fora such as citizen assemblies should be consistent, inclusive and provide the opportunity for the public to have meaningful influence on public policy or plans. Our current 'consultation guidelines' document sets a basic framework for guidance but it is insufficient for the scale, depth and reach of engagement required at this time and moving forward.</p> <p>As one example, Ireland has run a number of citizen assemblies on difficult issues that have been actioned by government through referendum which resulted in significant social change in Ireland. However, while some recommendations have been accepted and progressed, there is no or little information on the progress or decisions on recommendations that have not progressed. While understanding that the Citizen Assembly recommendations were not binding, it is a weakness of the process that there is insufficient information easily accessible to the public on government actions on recommendations. For example, there was no progress on the recommendation on multi-option referendums. Also, the CA recommendation that citizens be provided a say in a nomination process for presidential candidates was to be referred to an Oireachtas Committee. However, is not possible to find if this was an agenda item on the Oireachtas website search.</p>

	<p>Citizens therefore cannot find reasoning on why recommendations for further consideration were not advanced, or reasoning on why some commitments cannot be progressed.</p> <p>Feeding back on submissions or output of recommendations is a fundamental part of consultation – closing the loop. This example is highlighted because of the plan to establish citizen assemblies on biodiversity and also a youth forum related to climate action and it is important that a commitment is included in the next National Action Plan to address the need for improvements in how consultation, engagements and deliberations are conducted and actioned.</p>
<p><b>What is the proposed action?</b></p>	<p>The advanced consultation and deliberative engagement policy and standards are developed that include but, is not limited to the following important developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the Gunning Principles (outlined in Appendix) by all government and public bodies</li> <li>• New engagement methods together with children and youth</li> <li>• Stakeholder mapping in the design of consultation to ensure that all voices that are most impacted are engaged specifically, and that the process is inclusive with no voices missed</li> <li>• Required consultation/outcome reports consistently in all consultations, in an accessible way on all engagements and deliberative for a</li> <li>• Multi-option decision-making for deliberative fora</li> <li>• Provide a specific online location to track the recommendations of the past and future citizen assemblies</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the process of developing the new standards could expand to consider new methods for understanding public opinion and opinion change during deliberations (e.g. Q-method).</p>
<p><b>How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?</b></p>	<p>In the current climate and biodiversity crisis, the need for the engagement and mobilisation of all citizens is critical to the success of policies and measures for achieving our climate targets and improving just social outcomes on housing, health and the economy. New standards will enable us as a country ensure maximum impact and quality of engagement, which is important for all citizens and residents</p>

	to feel that they are listened to and their engagement is meaningful and has an impact.												
Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?	The establishment of an advanced and ambitious policy and set of standards that is collaboratively developed and easy to implement by all local authorities, government departments and public bodies and that results in a step change in citizen's engagement in issues and an increase in trust in the democratic process and institutions.												
Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relate too?	<p>Mark 'Yes' or 'No' in response</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Transparency</i> <i>(i.e. access to information)</i></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Civic participation</i></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Public Accountability</i></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	<i>Transparency</i> <i>(i.e. access to information)</i>	X		<i>Civic participation</i>	X		<i>Public Accountability</i>		
	Yes	No											
<i>Transparency</i> <i>(i.e. access to information)</i>	X												
<i>Civic participation</i>	X												
<i>Public Accountability</i>													
Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?	<b>Civic participation:</b> This action is at the core of the Open Government Participation of not only the civic participation pillar, but it is also central to the core value of the OGP which is Trust in democratic processes and institutions.												
What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?	<p><b>SDG 16: Peace Justice and Strong Communities</b> Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p> <p><b>SDG 13: Climate Action</b> Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p> <p><b>SDG 5: Gender Equality</b> Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p><b>SDG 3: Good Health &amp; Well-being</b> Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p> <p><b>SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities</b> Reduce inequality within and among countries</p>												
Additional information	The government is committed to new engagement methods,												

<p>(if known)</p>	<p>improved engagement processes and citizen and youth forum dialogues within the Programme for Government.</p> <p><b>Programme for Government extracts</b></p> <p><i>We will develop a new model of engagement with citizens, sectors, and regions as an early priority for Government, building on the learning of recent years.</i></p> <p><i>It shall embrace:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dialogue on a structured basis, so that the diverse elements of society can contribute to the process. There will be a specific youth dialogue strand.</i></li> <li>• <i>A process of accountability on progress, including an annual review.</i></li> <li>• <i>The promotion of citizen, sectoral and regional involvement in delivering actions within their own sphere of influence.</i></li> </ul> <p>---</p> <p><i>Establish a Rural Youth Assembly, as part of a National Youth Assembly, to allow young people in rural Ireland to identify and influence policy issues that impact on them and their future.</i></p> <p>----</p> <p><i>Establish a Youth Assembly, with various modules, including ones for rural and urban young people. This Youth Assembly will consider issues of importance to young people and their future, such as climate action, digitalisation, social media and communications, mental health and wellbeing</i></p> <p>--</p> <p><i>Progress the establishment of a Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity</i></p> <p>--</p> <p><i>Convene a Citizens' Assembly to consider matters relating to drugs use.</i></p> <p>--</p> <p><i>Establish a Citizens' Assembly on the Future of Programme for Government – Our Shared Future 95 Education ensuring that the voices of young people and those being educated are central.</i></p> <p>--</p> <p><i>Respond to each recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly on gender equality.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Informed by the work of the Citizens' Assembly, consider whether there should be a referendum on Article 41.2 of the constitution</i></li> </ul> <p>--</p> <p><i>Establish in 2021 a Citizens' Assembly to consider the type of directly elected mayor and local government structures best</i></p>
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	<p><i>suited for Dublin</i></p> <p>--</p> <p><i>Informed by the work of the Citizens' Assembly, we will hold a referendum on Article 41.2 of the Constitution</i></p> <p>--</p> <p><i>Act on the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality, seeking to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in the workplace, politics, and public life</i></p> <p>--</p> <p><i>Implement a consultation and participation model, in line with the UNCRPD, to enable people with disabilities to participate in the policy development process.</i></p> <p>—</p> <p><i>Engagement with citizens, reforming public services and broadening political participation to all strands of Irish life will be an integral part of this government's core missions. With consultation and meaningful deliberation, we will utilise a blend of statutory, legislative and constitutional measures to help re-model our system.</i></p> <p>--</p> <p><i>Ensure a comprehensive national consultation with young people, as to how better their voice can be heard and the issues that they want their Government to focus on for their future. We will develop a new National Strategy on Children and Young people's Participation in Decision-making 2021-2025.</i></p> <p>-</p> <p><i>Establish a unit in the Department of Taoiseach to coordinate social dialogue. It will create new models of sectoral engagement.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Utilise public consultations and citizens' assemblies and strengthen current mechanisms such as the National Economic Dialogue and the Labour Employer Economic Forum (LEEF)</i></li> </ul> <p>--</p> <p><i>Task all local authorities/Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) with developing a County Integration Strategy to promote, through a participative process, the inclusion of minorities.</i></p> <p>--</p> <p><i>Develop new models of community engagement, to ensure that the establishment of new accommodation is done in an inclusive and welcoming fashion.</i></p> <p>--</p>
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	This commitment will deliver a means to ensure the effectiveness, inclusiveness, completeness and enhanced legitimacy of those fora and public engagement.		
Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation <i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i>	Who / What organisation <i>(if known)</i>	When <i>(if known)</i>	Additional info.
1. Analyse current practice in terms of needs, gaps in consultations and deliberative engagements within the context of an ambitious vision.	DECC DRCD t	Jan – Feb 2022	
2. Work with stakeholders through workshops to identify new standards and areas where new practices and principles are required.	DECC DRCD	March 2022 – July 2022	
3. Develop Policy and standards for consultation	DECC DRCD	Sept 2022-Jan 2023	
4. Develop a process and indicators for monitoring the implementation and impact of the new standards and policy as well as a process for receiving and acting on feedback during implementation.	DECC DRCD	Jan 2023-March 2023	
5. Develop a training programme for implementation of the policy and standards.	DECC DRCD	Jan 2023-March 2023	
6. Roll-out the new policy and standards for implementation	DECC DRCD	From April 2023 -	
7. Develop an online location for information on all deliberative fora activities that tracks outcomes (e.g on all Citizens Assemblies). Work with stakeholders to design the most effective way for presenting the information and release also as open data.	DECC DRCD	March 2022- November 2022	
8. Engage with stakeholders during implementation and adjust as required as part of the monitoring and evaluation programme.	DECC DRCD	From April 2023	

Contact information							
Lead contact name (required)		Dr. Vanessa Liston					
Organisation (if applicable)		CiviQ					
Role title (if applicable)							
Email and Phone (required)		vanessa@civiq.eu [REDACTED]					
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)		Civic engagement – Participatory & Deliberative democracy					
For GDPR purposes (required)		<p>We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	X	
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	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups						
<p><b>Transparency:</b></p> <p><b>Publication and Freedom of Information Act</b></p>		<p><i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i></p> <p><i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment</i></p>					



	<i>function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i>
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## **Appendix**

### **Gunning Principles**

- Consultation must take place when the proposal is still at a formative stage
- Sufficient reasons must be put forward for the proposal to allow for intelligent consideration and response
- Adequate time must be given for consideration and response
- The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account



SUBMISSION #9

**Criona Brassill (PER)**

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**From:** Senni Maatta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday 23 November 2021 13:33  
**To:** Ireland Open Government Partnership  
**Subject:** Submission to Open Government consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Criona,

I am a researcher working at Queen's University Belfast. I would like to participate in the Open Government consultation by providing a few key recommendations based on my ongoing research on public participation in the energy transition in Ireland. My recommendations relate to particularly on public consultation on policy and are of relevance to other policy areas as well.

The transparency, accountability as well as policy consultation processes themselves could be improved by:

a) improving the readability of consultation documents by providing explanations of terms, summaries of key elements, and by complying with Plain English standards of the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). This element of public participation cannot be emphasised enough, as without a shared language and understanding, consultation processes are doomed to be ineffective.

b) by providing guidance on consultation directed at individuals and communities. Many community groups I have interviewed for my research have highlighted how exhaustive and time consuming it is for them to learn the expert language and to learn how to participate in consultations. Some of them raised the idea of a guidance document.

c) by providing transparent disclosure of reasoning behind policy decisions, especially if a decision is known to be against the interest of some key stakeholders.

d) by providing transparent feedback of how the consultation process impacted the policy design, even if the issues raised were dismissed. This would increase the meaningfulness of consultation processes and build trust that the consultation processes matter and are worth participating in.

e) by improving the advertising of consultation calls. This could be done for example, by furthering online engagement (e.g. website, social media, youtube videos). These should focus on making people aware of the consultation taking place as well as what is being consulted on, explaining key elements of the policy. The accessibility of consultation can also be increased by reaching out to organisations that are expected to be interested in the policy, including community organisations.

f) Many stakeholders from community groups to industry have highlighted a need to engage the public on engagement to find the best ways to organise participation. Such research is needed to effectively facilitate public participation and could be commissioned for example through the Shared Island initiative.

With best regards,  
Senni

**Senni Määttä**

MISTRAL-ITN Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher  
Queen's University Belfast

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

# Submission #10

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Progress the Public Sector Standards Bill (2015) or Equivalent Legislation to Achieve the Same Legislative/Policy outcome	
Proposed action Start and End Date: Begin Spring 2022- End Autumn 2022	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	DPER & Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and Taoiseach
Proposed Action Description	
What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?	<p>The Public Sector Standards Bill (2015) which intended to provide a consolidated ethics standard for all public officials, lapsed on 14 January 2020 after the dissolution of the Dáil.</p> <p>The Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) published an Evaluation Report for Ireland in 2014 in which it recommended the establishment of a new consolidated legal/ethical framework for Ireland. Owing to the lapse of the Bill in question, this recommendation remains unfulfilled.</p> <p>In SIPO's 2019 annual report, the Commission referred to GRECO giving Ireland a rating of "globally unsatisfactory"<sup>1</sup> partly as a result of the delay in enacting the Bill.</p> <p>SIPO have called for the immediate establishment of an ethical framework, which it describes as "long overdue", akin to that set out in the 2015 Bill as a matter of urgency.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Progressing this Bill would address the urgent issues outlined above, enhance public sector standards in terms of ethics and accountability and improve public confidence in the conduct and transparency of the work of elected officials.</p>
What is the proposed action?	Re-introduce The Public Sector Standards Bill (2015) (or equivalent legislation) into the Oireachtas and ensure the timely passage of same.
How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?	The purpose of the 2015 Public Sector Standards Bill is to significantly enhance existing frameworks for identifying, disclosing and managing conflicts of interest and to minimise

<sup>1</sup> GRECO Fourth Evaluation Round 2014: Corruption Prevention in Respect of Members of Parliament, Judges And Prosecutors

<sup>2</sup> SIPO Annual Report 2019

	<p>the risk of corruption.</p> <p>This would be achieved through a shift towards a more dynamic and risk-based system of compliance and to ensure that the institutional framework for oversight, investigation and enforcement is robust and effective.</p> <p>The Bill would also provide for the establishment of a Public Sector Standards Commissioner to assist in achieving these aims.</p>												
<p><b>Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?</b></p>	<p>A successful implementation would see the passage of the Bill through the Oireachtas with engagement from relevant civil society stakeholders and interested members of the public at Committee stage deliberations.</p> <p>Members of the public would benefit as the transparency of the work of public officials would be enhanced and standards of conduct for those in public life would be improved.</p> <p>The most effective way that the impact could be measured is through examining the perceived levels of corruption in Irish society in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index. It is indicative to note that in the most recent report, Ireland fell 2 places to 20<sup>th</sup> Globally<sup>3</sup>.</p>												
<p><b>Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?</b></p>	<p><i>Mark 'Yes' or 'No' in response</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="663 1301 1393 1556"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Civic participation</i></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Public Accountability</i></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>	X		<i>Civic participation</i>			<i>Public Accountability</i>	X	
	Yes	No											
<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>	X												
<i>Civic participation</i>													
<i>Public Accountability</i>	X												
<p><b>Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?</b></p>	<p>The passage of this Bill would undoubtedly enhance the transparency of the work of public officials. Through the consolidation of local and national ethics requirements and giving effect to the recommendations of a number of Tribunals, the 2015 Bill would provide a robust and effective framework for the management of conflicts of interest and standards of conduct of public officials at both local and national level. This framework would greatly enhance the quality and efficacy of public governance and the addressing of corruption risks.</p>												

<sup>3</sup> 2020 International Perception of Corruption Index

	<p>Furthermore, provision is made for the strengthening of the legal obligation for public officials to disclose, as a matter of routine, actual and potential conflicts of interest, reinforced by a significant extension of the personal and material scope of disclosures for public officials and graduated disclosure requirements.</p> <p>This is supplemented with a more effective process for the submission of periodic statements of interests. The Bill would impose statutory prohibitions on the use of insider information, on the seeking by public officials of benefits to further their private interests, and on local elected representatives from dealing professionally with land in certain circumstances.</p> <p>Similarly with regard to accountability, if enacted the Bill provides for the establishment of a Public Sector Standards Commissioner to oversee a reformed complaints and investigations process and establishes a set of integrity principles for all public officials.</p> <p>The establishment of a new statutory board is also provided for in order to address potential conflicts of interest as public officials take up roles in the private sector.</p>
<p><b>What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?</b></p>	<p>SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>
<p><b>Additional information (if known)</b></p>	<p>Page 120 of the Programme for Government outlines that the government plan to <i>“Reform and consolidate the Ethics in Public Office legislation.”</i><sup>4</sup></p> <p>Using an existing legislative template, in the form of the 2015 Bill, would be the most effective way to achieve this commitment on the part of the government rather than developing a new piece of legislation. Any necessary updates/amendments to improve the 2015 Bill could be carried out by the Oireachtas at Committee stage of the legislative process with input from civil society.</p>

<sup>4</sup> 2020 Programme for Government: Our Shared Future

Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation <i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i>	Who / What organisation <i>(if known)</i>	When <i>(if known)</i>	Additional info.
DPER Announces plans to re-introduce the Bill	DPER	January 2022	Announcement should highlight the fact that the Bill will be updated by the Oireachtas to incorporate developments since the original Bill lapsed
Bill Begins the Legislative Process as the "Public Sector Standards Bill (2022)"	Oireachtas	March 2022 (Depending on legislative load/priorities)	Detailed committee stage scrutiny will be needed with input from civil society.
Bill signed into law	Oireachtas	Autumn 2022	With all provisions to take effect within a reasonable timeframe.
<b>Contact information</b>			
Lead contact name (required)	Ronan Kennedy		
Organisation (if applicable)	The Irish Council for Civil Liberties		
Role title (if applicable)	Democratic Freedoms Policy Officer		
Email and Phone (required)	<a href="mailto:ronan.kennedy@iccl.ie">ronan.kennedy@iccl.ie</a> [REDACTED]		
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)	Extensive experience in public policy, political communication, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, public		

		<p>representation, higher education and public policy.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> I was a civil society member of the interim OGP roundtable.</p>					
For GDPR purposes (required)		<p>We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	X	
Yes	No						
X							
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	DPER as lead Department & Line Minister and the Oireachtas, with a particular role for the Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and Taoiseach					
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Key role for CSOs in making submissions and observations as the Bill progresses through the Oireachtas.					
<p>Transparency:</p> <p>Publication and Freedom of Information Act</p>		<p>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</p> <p>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</p>					





# SUBMISSION # 11

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Proposed action: An EU match funding facility for the community and voluntary sector	
Proposed action Start and End Date: 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023 (to create and pilot with the goal of offering this facility on a permanent basis)	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	<p>The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) and the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) could lead on establishing a fund like this for Irish civil society.</p> <p>The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications have established a precedent for such a facility through their provision of match funding for LIFE programme projects. Their model could be used as a basis for offering similar support across all EU funding programmes. Contacts at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications who are leading on this for the LIFE programme are:</p> <p>Beatrix Aigner: <a href="mailto:LIFE@decc.gov.ie">LIFE@decc.gov.ie</a></p> <p>Gerry Clabby: <a href="mailto:Gerry.Clabby@decc.gov.ie">Gerry.Clabby@decc.gov.ie</a></p> <p><i>To help us: If known, please share the work contact details for any official who would be able provide us with additional background and/or a status update of ongoing work in the policy areas pertaining to your proposed action.</i></p>
Proposed Action Description	
What is the <b>public problem</b> that the proposed action will address?	<p>Due to often prohibitive match funding requirements, charities, community and voluntary organisations, and social enterprises (the community and voluntary sector) are effectively excluded from engaging in many lucrative EU programmes, e.g., the Interregs, Creative Europe, LIFE, etc. As such Irish communities and our social innovation infrastructure are missing out on valuable opportunities, and we as a nation are not fully capitalising on our European Union membership.</p> <p>These organisations are usually not established to run large surpluses or are indeed in many instances discouraged from</p>

even having reserves as there is an expectation that every euro raised should go into delivery of frontline services. This puts these organisations at a serious disadvantage when it comes to applying for projects that require match funding, especially when compared to their publicly funded counterparts. Some programmes offer 100% funding while many offer co-financing for up to 80% of project costs. Some are more prohibitive still where 50 - 60% is on offer.

Charities, community and voluntary organisations, and social enterprises provide essential services and support advocacy in every community in Ireland. This includes supports and advocacy in the areas of health and disability, social care, education, housing, poverty relief, the arts, and sport, as well as international development. The sector is the unseen force powering our communities, driving positive social change, and giving people a voice, while providing vitally important supports and services.

Additionally, the community and voluntary sector constitutes a significant social economy within the broader economy. It comprises 32,841 community, voluntary and charitable organisations, involves over 86,481 volunteer directors and trustees, directly employs 165,000 people, and manages income of €14.2bn per year.

These organisations raise over half of this income (more than €8.3bn) themselves, majorly subsidising the cost of public services in Ireland. Indecon Economic Consultants (in a report published by the Charities Regulator in 2018) estimate that the total direct, indirect, and induced value of the work of Ireland's charities exceed €24bn per annum and support 289,000 employees.

The sector mobilises hundreds of thousands of volunteers and delivers the majority of our social and community services at a saving to the state. This social economy drives employment while simultaneously meeting the demand for essential services, works to progress social inclusion, equality, and the health and wellbeing of our communities and makes a difference to millions of lives here and across the world.

	<p>Given the essential role the sector plays in Irish society and the tremendous value it adds to our communities and our economy, it is essential that the Irish community and voluntary sector is supported to access EU funding as it allows them to scale up, develop, and diversify both their income and the services they offer. This has already been acknowledged by Government in the funding of Access Europe, a support and capacity building programme for Irish civil society to access and manage EU funding. This programme is an important step forward in supporting the sector to fulfil its EU potential, but it is essential we do not stop short of removing all of the barriers at this point.</p> <p><i>Tip: Describe the social, economic, political, or environmental problem addressed by the proposed action. When available, include baseline data and contextual facts.</i></p>
<p><b>What is the proposed action?</b></p>	<p>Our proposed action is a designated match funding facility for the Irish community and voluntary sector for European programmes.</p> <p>A designated match funding facility would enable more EU funding drawdown. With only a 20 - 50% investment into project costs from Government, our economy and society will benefit from the full value that such projects bring to communities, the sector, and to the social innovation ecosystem in Ireland.</p> <p>Other EU countries have match funding facilities that have worked very effectively.</p> <p>For example, until their departure from the EU, The Welsh Government under previous EU Multiannual Financial Framework's (MFF) offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Targeted Match Fund:</b> A £350 million fund to support projects applying for structural fund support.</li> <li>• <b><u>European Social Fund Priority 4 Convergence Match Fund:</u></b> The fund provided a total of up to £1 million in each financial year to projects applying to the European Social Fund Convergence Priority 4</li> </ul>

(modernising and improving the quality of public services)

Other examples and benefits to matched funding that the Irish Government supports include:

The PEACE IV Programme was a European Union initiative designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. It is now being absorbed into a larger programme called PEACE Plus. PEACE IV saw the investment of €270 million in the eligible region over the six-year period from 2014 to 2020. €229 million was provided through the European Regional Development Fund with the Irish and UK governments providing an additional €41 million of match funding.

As stated above, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications have established a precedent for such a facility through their provision of match funding for LIFE programme projects.

The objective of this fund would be to support more community and voluntary involvement in European programmes and more drawdown of European funding available to Ireland. This would also have the potential of placing Ireland as best in class in Europe in regard to civic participation in community development and the Quadruple Helix Model of innovation, which recognises four major actors in the innovation system: science, policy, industry, and society. With this match funding, "society actors" (i.e. community and voluntary organisations) will be able to participate on par with science, policy, and industry actors in EU funded projects.

The expected results will be:

- More EU funding drawdown (especially important now that Ireland are net contributors to the EU budget)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More socially innovative and engaged projects for Irish communities</li> <li>- A more developed and supported community and voluntary sector in Ireland</li> </ul> <p><i>Tip: Describe what the proposed action involves, its expected <b>results</b>, and overall <b>objective</b>. When considering this question, the next question and the later question on 'suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation', will help refine and clarify and focus your proposed action.</i></p>
<p><b>How</b> will the proposed action contribute to solving the public problem?</p>	<p>A match funding facility will remove the co-financing barrier that currently exists for sector organisations trying to access EU funding.</p> <p>The ability to fully capitalise on the opportunities provided by EU funding is vital for the overall development of the social economy and the community and voluntary sector, and especially in delivering on key goals outlined in national strategies around social enterprise, volunteering, rural development, and the community and voluntary sector, where access to funding is a common priority. It will also support the community and voluntary sector to deliver on their role in fully realising the goals outlined in the European Green Deal and the European Pillar on Social Rights.</p> <p><i>Tip: Describe how the proposed action will contribute to solving the problem or/and influence government practice towards addressing the problem. In order to do this, explain how the proposed commitment will be implemented in conjunction with the later question 'suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation'. Provide a clear description of how the milestones listed will achieve what the proposed action sets out to do and obtain the expected results that will contribute to solving the problem.</i></p>
<p>Describe what <b>successful implementation</b> of the proposed action would look like?</p>	<p>While we are open to suggestions and there is more research that will need to be done to design an effective model, a proposed model would be as follows:</p> <p>Relevant stakeholders would work together to decide the scope, terms and conditions of the match funding facility and to design an application and assessment system for</p>

organisations that wish to access it. Stakeholders would include

- representatives from various Government departments who have a policy interest in the funds, e.g., the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht would have a strategic interest in both Creative Europe and Interreg INTERREG North West Europe.
- National contact points for European programmes, e.g., the regional assemblies, the Arts Council, etc.
- The Wheel as Access Europe national contact point

It will be important that the system is as accessible and streamlined as possible, and that the decision-making process is agile. EU funding applications are already a massive, time consuming and bureaucratic undertaking, and calls are often published with short deadlines. We should be conscious not to add unnecessarily to the application burden, while also ensuring that the necessary procedures are in place.

The finalised match funding facility can be launched to the community and voluntary sector with a designated contact point to promote it and provide training and advice on how to access it, and to monitor its impact. Decisions about which projects to match fund could remain with the Department and/or stakeholder group. The facility could be funded on a trial basis first for the current multi-annual financial framework to establish whether it is worth continuing long term.

Successful implementation will see stakeholders that are currently operating in silos working effectively together to ensure that EU funding is properly utilised in reaching national and EU policy goals. It will mean that Irish society benefits from the full value of these projects with only 10 – 50% investment and that the Irish community and voluntary sector is supported to reach its full EU potential. Moreover, this would place Ireland at the forefront of science, policy, industry, and society working together to solve problems.

Measurement will be quantitative, i.e., the number of organisations that are enabled to join/lead projects that they otherwise would not have been able to participate in, the overall financial value of the project and the value to the Irish partner(s) specifically, the number of people impacted

by the project and the KPIs it achieved. There is also the option to conduct a Social Impact Assessment. However, there can also be a qualitative aspect to the measurements, with a national contact point collecting case studies and feedback about the impact of the projects in communities and organisations, which could feed into overall communications about the value of Ireland's EU membership/visibility of EU funding and how Government supports the community and voluntary sector.

*To help us: While recognising that it is often challenging, please share with us any suggested way of **measuring** how members of the public would benefit from the proposed action and/or **measuring the effect** of the proposed action.*

**Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?**

Mark 'Yes' or 'No' in response

	Yes	No
Transparency <i>(i.e. access to information)</i>		
Civic participation	X	
Public Accountability		

*Tip: Use the following questions to guide your response:*

- *Is the proposed action disclosing more information, improving the quality of the information disclosed, improving accessibility of information to the public or enabling the right to information?*

*If yes, this proposed action is relevant to **Transparency (i.e. access to information)**.*

- *Is the proposed action creating or improving opportunities, or capabilities for the public to inform or influence decisions? Is the proposed commitment creating or improving the enabling environment for civil society?*

*If yes, this proposed action is relevant to **civic participation**.*

- *Is the proposed action creating or improving rules, regulations, and mechanisms to publicly hold government officials answerable to their actions?*

*If yes, the proposed action is relevant to **public accountability**.*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Is the proposed action enhancing the use of technology and innovation to enable public involvement in government and will enhance at least one of: access to information, public participation, or public accountability?</i> <i>If yes, the proposed action is relevant to that value(s), either transparency (i.e. access to information; civic participation and/or public accountability).</i></li> </ul>
<p>Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the <b>Open Government value(s)</b> identified?</p>	<p>The proposed action is contributing to the Open Government value of <b>civic participation</b> because it is improving the enabling environment for civil society.</p> <p>Participation in EU funded programmes is one of the key ways in which Irish community and voluntary organisations can engage with counterparts across the full spectrum of economic, social, cultural and environmental life.</p> <p>At the sector is very limited in engaging in EU funding programmes. They face a number of barriers including the costs associated with preparing applications, the complexity of the application process and the here targeted need for match funding.</p> <p>With a match funding facility for European programmes, one barrier would be addressed and participation of the sector maximised.</p>
<p>What <b>Sustainable Development Goal</b> does this proposed action relate too (if known)?</p>	<p>The Irish community and voluntary sector has been driving progress in the areas of the SDGs before they were even conceptualised. Their everyday work, and the projects they will propose, underpin all of the SDGs, and it is the activism, advocacy and social innovation of the sector that got these goals on the policy agenda in the first place. As such, we can expect that each project they propose will be linked to at least one SDG, and there is potential for all SDGs to be represented over the match funding facility's lifetime.</p> <p>EU programmes and projects have been subjected to a re-think and re-adapting in order to comply with UN SDGs. The European Commission has made extensive efforts to introduce sustainability elements into EU activities</p>



	<p>integrating the SDG targets. The EU programmes are the main tool and instrument to turn the UN SDGs into a reality.</p> <p>As such, we can expect a clear connection and tangible results from this match funding facility in relation to the SDGs.</p> <p>However, there is one goal that this match funding facility itself would have a direct impact on. This is Goal 17, which is to “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”. Within the capacity building subsection, it recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries and seeks to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships (<a href="https://sdgs.un.org/topics/capacity-development">https://sdgs.un.org/topics/capacity-development</a>). Through supporting multi-stakeholder cross sectoral projects that tackle major societal challenges, this facility would be an effective tool to delivering on this goal.</p> <p><i>Please state the SDG goal (and sub-group).</i></p> <p><i>Tip: The Sustainable Development Goals and sub-goals are outlined on the <a href="#">United Nation website</a>. Note also, the <a href="#">Irish website</a> with relevant data and case studies.</i></p>
<p>Additional information (if known)</p>	<p>Projects that could be supported through this match funding facility could support a number of policy priorities outlined in the <b>Programme for Government: Our Shared Future</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Establishing new measures of wellbeing and progress beyond economic measures, for example in housing, education, and health, which are all priority areas for our sector (p. 12). NGOs are listed as stakeholders in this mission.</i></li> <li>- <i>Developing the role of social enterprises and the sector overall in a Jobs-led Recovery from COVID-19 (p. 19) and the National Economic Plan - Education, Training and Reskilling (p. 20)</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Bringing communities with us” and leading projects in the implementation of climate, environmental and biodiversity goals and the European Green Deal (p. 35)</li> <li>- Furthering goals related to public health and awareness, community care, advocacy and representation of patients, addiction treatment, services for older people, hospice, mental health and suicide prevention. Community and voluntary organisations are at the forefront of many of our health services (p. 44).</li> <li>- Projects connected to housing and homelessness (p. 54)</li> <li>- Provide match funding for LEADER projects (p. 61)</li> <li>- Support balanced regional development and involvement of communities and young people (p. 62)</li> <li>- Progress the development of a new social contract in partnership with marginalised groups such as refugees, migrants, LGBTQI+, and people with disabilities (p. 60)</li> <li>- Tackling hate crimes and domestic and sexual violence (p. 86)</li> <li>- Promoting arts, culture, the Irish language and sport (p. 88)</li> <li>- Promoting community development, social inclusion and public participation (p. 91)</li> <li>- Drive adult literacy, lifelong learning, and community education (p. 100)</li> <li>- Support research and innovation projects tackling societal challenges (p. 101)</li> <li>- Support delivery of PEACE Plus (p. 105)</li> </ul> <p>Of key importance is the priority “Ireland at the Heart of Europe” in the Programme for Government (p. 110) and how projects supported through this facility can increase citizens awareness of and engagement in the EU and promote EU values of “cooperation, peace, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law”. Project will also help to deliver on a number of other goals, including forging alliances with other Member States, COVID-19 recovery, and communicating and promoting the EU’s work at all levels of society (p. 111).</p>
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In addition to the Programme for Government, this facility would also support several priorities outlined in:

- Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five-Year Strategy to Support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland 2019-2024
- The National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022
- The National Volunteering Strategy (2021 - 2025)

*Use this optional space to provide other information on the wider context of your proposed action*

*Tip: For example you may wish to consider:*

- *Links to the Programme for Government (1506 commitments)*
- *Links to other government programs (for example for civic participation maybe one of the actions in Department of Rural and Community Development's 'Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland (2019-2024)' might be relevant.*
- *Links to Ireland's National Development Plan 'Project Ireland 2040' or other sectoral or local plans.*

Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation <i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i>	Who / What organisation <i>(if known)</i>	When <i>(if known)</i>	Additional info.
Establish a stakeholder group to design the match funding facility including its scope, terms and conditions and a fair application procedure. Stakeholders would include relevant Government representatives, EU national contact points, and community and voluntary sector representatives.	A relevant government dept	As step 1, upon project initiation (early 2022)	
Designate a contact point to launch and promote the match funding facility, support applicants, and monitor and report on impact.	Leading government department/	Within 6 months of	

	the stakeholder group	project initiation	
Launch match funding facility	National contact point (reporting to leading government department and stakeholder group)	Within 3 months of appointment	
Initiate first successful projects	National contact point (reporting to leading government department and stakeholder group)	Within first 12 months of appointment	
Ongoing promotion of match funding facility, project funding, impact assessment, and promotion of results/impact	National contact point (reporting to leading government department and stakeholder group)		

**Contact information**

Lead contact name (required)	Emma Murtagh
Organisation (if applicable)	The Wheel
Role title (if applicable)	European Programmes Manager
Email and Phone (required)	<u>emma@wheel.ie</u> [REDACTED]

Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)							
For GDPR purposes (required)		We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	X	
Yes	No						
X							
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency						
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups						
<b>Transparency:</b>  <b>Publication and Freedom of Information Act</b>		<i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i>  <i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i>					



# SUBMISSION #12

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
<p><b>Proposed Action</b></p> <p>The government should formally adopt a <u>participatory governance framework</u> for engaging with civil society.</p>	
<p><b>Proposed action Start and End Date:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (to adapt the Health Dialogue Forum process and pilot it in other engagement processes)</p>	
<p>Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)</p>	<p>Given its overarching nature, such a participatory governance framework will require leadership from the Department of the Taoiseach.</p> <p>The Department of Rural and Community Development will play a key role in ensuring effective engagement with Civil Society.</p> <p>The Department of Health, along with the Health Service Executive, are playing a key role in creating such a mechanism through the Health Dialogue Forum.</p> <p>We believe this model could be replicated across other Government departments or agencies where community and voluntary organisations work in partnership with their statutory counterparts to deliver supports and services.</p> <p>For further information, contact: Laura Casey, Principal Officer, Department of Health <a href="mailto:Laura_Casey@health.gov.ie">Laura_Casey@health.gov.ie</a></p> <p><i>To help us: If known, please share the work contact details for any official who would be able provide us with additional background and/or a status update of ongoing work in the policy areas pertaining to your proposed action.</i></p>
Proposed Action Description	
<p>What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?</p>	<p>The regulation of civil society organisations—and the associated requirements for specialist knowledge, paperwork and reporting—is increasing all the time, which is onerous for all voluntary organisations;</p> <p>Civil society organisations are under financial pressure to act more commercially;</p>

Public authorities actively encourage civil society organisations to act like businesses, and in some cases impose competition between publicly-funded charities that undermines the ethos of co-operation and collaboration;

State funders of civil society organisations sometimes seek to control and restrict the actions of those organisations, and to reduce their numbers, even when they also raise part of their own funding independently

In addition, there are wider issues for people in society: A person's ability to be an active citizen is not always guaranteed. Some people are better able to participate than others are, so redressing economic, social and political power inequalities across Irish society is required to foster meaningful active citizenship for everyone. Addressing such power imbalances must start with ensuring (as argued by the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice) that all people enjoy a minimum essential standard of living and have an income sufficient to live with dignity. But even when people are materially able to participate, much more needs to be done to ensure people can meaningfully participate in our democracy.

The final report on The People's Conversation, Participating People, found that that deepening participation in democratic decision-making must extend beyond representative democracy. Participants were clear that we have to find new ways to involve people in decisions about what and how we produce and consume, rather than simply leaving it to the market to passively shape our future.

An Ipsos MORI survey of 1,000 people, conducted as part of the research found that almost half (48%) of people in Ireland feel they have too little control over the public services they receive (45% felt that they had about the right level of control).

Participants felt strongly that if they were better involved in democratic decision-making processes, then policies and market processes would be more effectively targeted at the great challenges we currently face.



The outsourcing of public services to the private sector is introducing increasing 'conditionality' into public services. This in turn changes the nature of the relationship between citizens and public services delivered in such commercial contexts. People feel that they are inappropriately regarded as customers rather than as citizens who have a stake in their public services.

#### About the Community and Voluntary Sector

Charities, community and voluntary organisations, and social enterprises provide essential services and support advocacy in every community in Ireland. This includes supports and advocacy in the areas of health and disability, social care, education, housing, poverty relief, the arts, and sport, as well as international development. The sector is the unseen force powering our communities, driving positive social change, and giving people a voice, while providing vitally important supports and services.

Additionally, the community and voluntary sector constitutes a significant social economy within the broader economy. It comprises 32,841 community, voluntary and charitable organisations, involves over 86,481 volunteer directors and trustees, directly employs 165,000 people, and manages income of €14.2bn per year.

These organisations raise over half of this income (more than €8.3bn) themselves, majorly subsidising the cost of public services in Ireland. Indecon Economic Consultants (in a report published by the Charities Regulator in 2018) estimate that the total direct, indirect, and induced value of the work of Ireland's charities exceed €24bn per annum and support 289,000 employees.

The sector mobilises hundreds of thousands of volunteers and delivers the majority of our social and community services at a saving to the state. This social economy drives employment while simultaneously meeting the demand for essential services, works to progress social inclusion, equality, and the health and wellbeing of our communities and makes a difference to millions of lives here and across the world.

Given the essential role the sector plays in Irish society and the tremendous value it adds to our communities and our economy, it is essential that barriers to the community and voluntary sector's effective engagement with policy formation and democratic processes are removed, including how participatory governance processes involving civil

	<p>society are established and implemented and ensuring that existing policies and strategies affecting the community and voluntary sector are fully resourced. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five-Year Strategy to Support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland 2019-2024</li> <li>- The National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022</li> <li>- The National Volunteering Strategy (2021 - 2025)</li> </ul> <p><i>Tip: Describe the social, economic, political, or environmental problem addressed by the proposed action. When available, include baseline data and contextual facts.</i></p>
<p>What is the proposed action?</p>	<p>The government should formally adopt a <u>participatory governance framework</u>. This would fulfil the Programme for Government pledge to ‘encourage a cooperative approach between public bodies and the community and voluntary sector’. It would involve adopting a set of regulations to require all government departments and agencies to take a more equitable participatory approach to their dealings with civil society organisations.</p> <p>The Government is already adopting a more partnership-based approach on a number of issues involving the community and voluntary sector. By addressing the strategic needs of this “third sector” and advancing a partnership approach, Government can help to increase the positive impact of what is a vital national asset.</p> <p>We welcome the progress being made through the Health Dialogue Forum following the Covid-19 pandemic. Drawing on the learnings in the National Economic and Social Council’s (NESCC) report <i>Building a New Relationship between Voluntary Organisations and the State in the Health and Social Care Sectors</i>, the Forum aims to build a stronger relationship between the State and the voluntary healthcare sector by: agreeing principles to support positive relationships; introducing changes to support essential services; reviewing and simplifying service agreements so that they support autonomy and accountability; avoiding duplication in reporting; and moving to multi-annual budgeting. The Forum should be used as the model for the participatory governance framework.</p> <p>The Health Dialogue Forum brings together key sector representative voices to work with departmental officials</p>

	<p>and HSE personnel to identify challenges that present to community and voluntary organisations working in partnership with statutory agencies as effectively as possible. The process takes a problem solving approach to identifying actions that all relevant stakeholders can support and implement to deliver better outcomes for communities and people served.</p> <p>We believe this model could be replicated across other Government departments or agencies where community and voluntary orgs work in partnership with their statutory counterparts to deliver supports and services.</p> <p><i>Tip: Describe what the proposed action involves, its expected results, and overall objective. When considering this question, the next question and the later question on 'suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation', will help refine and clarify and focus your proposed action.</i></p>
<p>How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?</p>	<p>The explicit goal of the participatory governance framework is to foster active citizenship through empowering people, from all walks of life, to participate directly in deliberations and the implementation of public policy and public services, (such as implied by the co-design and co-production of public services). This requires open and transparent public administration and identifying the core competencies needed and providing core funding to support the empowerment of people from minority groups and in disadvantaged localities.</p> <p>Relevant themes for Forums to look at (as is the case with the current Health Dialogue Forum) would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree principles to support positive relationships;</li> <li>- Introduce changes to support essential services;</li> <li>- Review and simplify funding mechanisms, including service agreements, so that they support autonomy and accountability;</li> <li>- Avoid duplication in reporting;</li> <li>- Support a move to multi-annual budgeting.</li> </ul> <p><i>Tip: Describe how the proposed action will contribute to solving the problem or/and influence government practice towards addressing the problem. In order to do this, explain how the proposed commitment will be implemented in conjunction with the later question 'suggested next steps and</i></p>

	<p><i>milestones to guide implementation’. Provide a clear description of how the milestones listed will achieve what the proposed action sets out to do and obtain the expected results that will contribute to solving the problem.</i></p>												
<p><b>Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?</b></p>	<p>As evidenced by the work of the Health Dialogue Forum, successful implementation of the participatory governance framework will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build an effective partnership model for partnership between Government Departments and state agencies and community and voluntary organisations to implement local, national, EU and international policies and strategies that is accountable and fosters trust on all sides.</li> <li>- Make services and supports more efficient and more outcomes focused for the benefit of the public on whose behalf we work.</li> </ul> <p><i>To help us: While recognising that it is often challenging, please share with us any suggested way of measuring how members of the public would benefit from the proposed action and/or measuring the effect of the proposed action.</i></p>												
<p><b>Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?</b></p>	<p>Mark ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ in response</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="662 1283 1391 1541"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i></td> <td></td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Civic participation</i></td> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Public Accountability</i></td> <td></td> <td>No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Tip: Use the following questions to guide your response:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Is the proposed action disclosing more information, improving the quality of the information disclosed, improving accessibility of information to the public or enabling the right to information? If yes, this proposed action is relevant to <b>Transparency (i.e. access to information).</b></i></li> <li>● <i>Is the proposed action creating or improving opportunities, or capabilities for the public to inform or influence decisions? Is the proposed commitment</i></li> </ul>		Yes	No	<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>		No	<i>Civic participation</i>	Yes		<i>Public Accountability</i>		No
	Yes	No											
<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>		No											
<i>Civic participation</i>	Yes												
<i>Public Accountability</i>		No											

	<p><i>creating or improving the enabling environment for civil society?</i>  <i>If yes, this proposed action is relevant to <b>civic participation</b>.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Is the proposed action creating or improving rules, regulations, and mechanisms to publicly hold government officials answerable to their actions? If yes, the proposed action is relevant to <b>public accountability</b>.</i></li> <li>● <i>Is the proposed action enhancing the use of technology and innovation to enable public involvement in government and will enhance at least one of: access to information, public participation, or public accountability? If yes, the proposed action is relevant to that value(s), either <b>transparency (i.e. access to information; civic participation and/or public accountability)</b>.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?</p>	<p>The proposed action relates to the value of Civic Participation and will improve the enabling environment for civil society. Effective civil society engagement is essential for an effective open government partnership process that is transparent and accountable. The action will fulfil the programme for government pledge to ‘encourage a cooperative approach between public bodies and the community and voluntary sector’.</p> <p>Adapting the model for a participatory governance framework that is currently underway through the Health Dialogue Forum to be applicable across all Government departments and state agencies will lead to open and transparent public administration and identifying the core competencies needed and providing core funding to support the empowerment of people from minority groups and in disadvantaged localities.</p>
<p>What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?</p>	<p><i>Please state the SDG goal (and sub-group).</i>  The ongoing, essential work of Irish community and voluntary organisations addresses all of the SDGs and implementation of the action will strengthen Ireland’s implementation of the Goals.</p>

	<p>In particular, Goal 17, which is to 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development is addressed by this action and target 17.17 which is to 'Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability' is very relevant.</p> <p><i>Tip: The Sustainable Development Goals and sub-goals are outlined on the <a href="#">United Nation website</a>. Note also, the <a href="#">Irish website</a> with relevant data and case studies.</i></p>
<p>Additional information (if known)</p>	<p><i>Use this optional space to provide other information on the wider context of your proposed action</i></p> <p>This action addresses a number of the commitments in the Programme for Government:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a unit in the Department of the Taoiseach to coordinate social dialogue. It will create new models of sectoral engagement.</li> <li>2. Implementation of the Department of Rural and Community Development's national strategy to support the community and voluntary sector (which includes civic participation)</li> </ol> <p>The DRCD strategy 'Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five-Year Strategy to Support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland 2019-2024' states that the 'Government recognises that infrastructural investment needs to be complemented by supports for social development, for building communities and enabling marginalised people and groups to become involved in their own communities, including in regeneration processes in their own communities and at a wider societal level.'</p> <p>In our <a href="#">Budget 2022</a> submission, The Wheel makes costed recommendations for full implementation of the Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities strategy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Build the capacity of local authorities to lead locally and engage citizens on climate change and biodiversity - Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)</li> </ol>

	<p><i>Tip: For example you may wish to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Links to the <u>Programme for Government (1506 commitments)</u></i></li> <li>● <i>Links to other government programs (for example for civic participation maybe one of the actions in Department of Rural and Community Development's <u>'Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland (2019-2024)'</u> might be relevant.</i></li> <li>● <i>Links to Ireland's National Development Plan <u>'Project Ireland 2040'</u> or other sectoral or local plans.</i></li> </ul>		
<p>Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation <i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i></p>	<p>Who / What organisation <i>(if known)</i></p>	<p>When <i>(if known)</i></p>	<p>Additional info.</p>
<p>Set up stakeholder groups (involving stakeholders from the relevant depts., agencies and community and voluntary sector partners together)</p>	<p>e.g. Department of the Taoiseach, DRCD, HSE, Tusla, civil society representatives...</p>	<p>By April 2022</p>	
<p>Carry out an analysis of requirements to generalise the process adopted by the Health Dialogue Forum to make it applicable across all Government department and state agency processes with civil society</p>	<p>Stakeholder groups</p>	<p>May to September 2022</p>	
<p>Joint launch of the pilot process additional to Health Dialogue Forum</p>	<p>Department of the Taoiseach, DRCD, Civil Society representatives, (Stakeholder groups)</p>	<p>October 2022</p>	

Pilot the participatory governance framework with one process beyond the Health Dialogue Forum	e.g. Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, DRCD, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Tusla	October 2022 to June 2023	
Review the implementation of the participatory governance framework	Stakeholder groups	June 2023	
Communicate the results of the process to wider civil society through e.g. - National Conference - Existing civil society communication channels - Local Authorities and Public Participation Networks	Stakeholder groups	Ongoing	
<b>Contact information</b>			
Lead contact name (required)	Johnny Sheehan		
Organisation (if applicable)	The Wheel		
Role title (if applicable)	National Rural Network & Member Engagement Manager		
Email and Phone (required)	<a href="mailto:johnny@wheel.ie">johnny@wheel.ie</a> [REDACTED]		
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)			
For GDPR purposes (required)	We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	Yes  X	No



Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	
<p>Transparency:</p> <p>Publication and Freedom of Information Act</p>		<p><i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i></p> <p><i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i></p>



# SUBMISSION # 13

## Open Government 3<sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan

Introduce a plain language requirement on all public service communication so people can understand information the first time they read or hear it. Using plain language saves time and money and reduces mistakes and complaints.

– Programme for Government

Proposed action Start and End Date: 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023

**Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)**

- The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
- The Department of Justice
- The Department of the Taoiseach
- The Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

In 2021, a commitment was made in the Programme for Government to introduce a plain language requirement.

The new 10-year Adult Literacy for Life strategy is cross-government and includes an action on “communicating and delivering public services in plain language.”

The Strategy is being led by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

<b>Proposed Action Description</b>	
<b>What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?</b>	<p>The OECD Adult Literacy Skills Survey found that almost 18% or 1 in 6 Irish adults are at or below level 1, the lowest level on a five-level literacy scale. At this level a person may be unable to read and understand public information. Plain English (plain language) is a way of writing and presenting information that is easier for all people but especially people with literacy needs, to read and understand information.</p> <p>Both citizens and governments benefit from clear information, written in plain English. Citizens are more likely to understand their rights and governments are more likely to make better use of their resources. That's why we recommend that all public information produced by Government and its agencies is written in plain English.</p> <p>Plain English encourages individuals to engage with public services and make informed decisions when doing so. It can also save the public sector time, money and possible frustration by having to make repeated requests for information.</p>
<b>What is the proposed action?</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All public bodies should draft an organisation-wide plain language policy.</li> <li>2. All public bodies should engage whatever resources are available and necessary to make sure their public information is as clear as possible. Ensuring clarity includes, for example, testing leaflets, letters, forms and other public</li> </ol>

	<p>information for their readability and usability among those most likely to read them.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. All government departments should require agencies and other bodies under their remit to provide evidence of a plain language policy and action plan in their applications for project funding or annual budget submissions.</li> <li>4. The overseeing Department of the Taoiseach should set up a minimum standard or code of practice for using plain English in all public communications.</li> <li>5. The overseeing Department of the Taoiseach should set a target for putting public information into plain language and make this a key performance indicator of the Government's record of being accessible to the public.</li> </ol>
<p><b>How will the proposed action solve the public problem?</b></p>	<p><b>It will make complex information clearer.</b></p> <p>Research by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) found that almost 95% of Irish adults are in favour of organisations providing information in plain language. The research also found that about half of the respondents (48%) find official documents difficult to understand. Over half of these found <b>jargon</b>, especially technical and legal jargon, difficult to understand. Over a third (35%) also said that they found <b>information from the public service and from the Government</b> challenging and a fifth (12%) said <b>financial information</b> was difficult to understand.</p> <p>When you use plain language more people can understand your information. This is important for</p>

	<p>the one in six people in Ireland who struggle with reading and understanding everyday text, such as a health leaflet, housing form or letter from Revenue or the Department of Social Protection.</p> <p><b>It will increase public trust.</b></p> <p>It will raise awareness about Government's commitment to ethical communication, particularly to the 1 in 6 people in this country with a literacy need. This will increase the public's trust in Government, its institutions, agencies and services.</p> <p><b>It will increase public accountability.</b></p> <p>It will increase public accountability. See case study 3 of the <a href="#">Legal Case for Plain Language</a>.</p> <p><b>It will support legislation – and other important strategies.</b></p> <p>It will chime well with existing and planned legislation here and in Europe (GDPR, Universal Design requirements, and so on).</p> <p>It will also support other strategies and initiatives such as the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) strategy.</p>
<p><b>Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?</b></p>	<p>The successful implementation of the proposed action would mean that Open Government values of transparency, civic participation and public accountability would be further upheld – and seen.</p>

	<p>The commitment and use of plain language would help:</p> <p><b>Promote greater public access to, and understanding of, information:</b> legal, financial, environmental and health and well-being. (Sample measures: better public usage of Government eServices, more completed forms, and a higher response to Government requests for information...)</p> <p><b>Citizens better understand and fulfil their rights and duties through more active participation</b> (Sample measures: greater numbers of the public taking part in national, regional and local consultation events, fewer incomplete forms, fewer requests for clarification about information from government agencies...)</p> <p><b>Support the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly SDG 16 – see later) and other relevant documents and plans such as Literacy for Life Strategy.</b> (Sample measures: more people more aware of their rights when going to court, when awaiting a legal decision, people taking part more in learning opportunities...)</p>
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<b>Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?</b>		Yes	No
	Transparency (i.e. access to information)	✓	
	Civic participation	✓	
	Public Accountability	✓	
Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?	<p><b>Transparency</b> Both citizens and governments benefit from clear information, written in plain language. Citizens are more likely to understand their rights and governments are more likely to make better use of their resources. Our action is relevant to this value as the fundamental principle of plain language is ethical communication.</p> <p><b>Civic Participation</b> Plain language encourages individuals to engage with public services and make informed decisions when doing so. Our action is relevant to this value as you can't have this value without transparency and accountability. Therefore, you need plain language (including plain Irish).</p> <p><b>Accountability</b> Plain language can save the public sector time, money and possible frustration by having to make repeated requests for information.</p> <p>Our action is relevant to this value as you can't be fully accountable unless you know and understand your role, responsibility and obligations.</p>		



<p>What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?</p>	<p><b>Goal 16</b></p> <p>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.</p>		
<p>Additional information (if known)</p>			
<p>Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation (Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</p>	<p>Who / What organisation (if known)</p>	<p>When (if known)</p>	<p>Additional info.</p>
<p>Set a target for putting public information into plain language and make this a key performance indicator of the Government's record of being accessible to the public.</p>	<p>Department of the Taoiseach</p>	<p>TBC</p>	
<p>Set up a minimum standard or code of practice for using plain language in all public communications.</p>	<p>Department of the Taoiseach</p>		
<p>All Government departments should require agencies and other bodies under their remit to provide evidence of a plain language policy and action plan in their applications for project funding or annual budget submissions.</p>	<p>All government departments</p>		
<p>All public bodies should engage whatever resources are available and necessary to make sure their public information is as clear as possible.</p>	<p>All public bodies</p>		

Ensuring clarity includes, for example testing leaflets, letters, forms and other public information for their readability and usability among those most likely to read them.				
<b>Contact information</b>				
Lead contact name (required)		Claire O’Riordan		
Organisation (if applicable)		The National Adult Literacy Agency		
Role title (if applicable)		Plain English Co-ordinator		
Email and Phone (required)		coriordan@nala.ie [REDACTED]		
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)		Plain English		
For GDPR purposes (required)		We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	<b>Yes</b> ✓	<b>No</b>
<b>Other Actors Involved</b>	<b>Government Ministries, Department/Agency</b>	We believe this action is relevant to all government departments but particularly The Department of the Taoiseach, DPER, the Dept of Justice and DFHERIS.		
	<b>CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups</b>	This action will improve the communications and save money of all organisations providing information and services to the public.		

<p>Transparency: Publication and Freedom of Information Act</p>	<p>NALA welcomes the opportunity to share and publish our submission in full. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.</p>
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# SUBMISSION # 14

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Strengthen data.gov.ie in terms of the openness standard of the PSI licence attached to the catalog of the data available for those wishing to re-use spatial data. In a specific case the re-use of spatial data within OpenStreetMap, which requires data to be at a <u>ODBL</u> standard.	
The Action should start immediately when the new plan period comes into effect.	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (specifically the project team that supports data.gov.ie) also known as the Open Data Unit.
Proposed Action Description	
What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?	<p>Both the EU Directive 2019/1024 and DPER recognise that spatial data is often "high value" data, with many possible direct re-uses. The present licence arrangements apply on data.gov.ie is that the PSI licence applies a minimum standard by default, which is the CC-BY licence is used by default on everything published on the open data portal. In other cases it is encouraged that data providers and data re-users can raise this standard by agreement outside of the portal, but public bodies which might publish such data to CC-BY standard are themselves ultimately holding it on licence terms from Ordnance Survey, Coillte, Eircode, An Post (for example), or have derived their data from use of Ordnance Survey in which cases licence pollution to an end user of data may occur.</p> <p>The re-use, of official data, for example schools data (without location data) leads to very limited results, as is seen <a href="#">here</a></p>
What is the proposed action?	<p>The action could have a four phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the <b>first</b> to start immediately being a review of the existing limitations in the PSI licence, with specific reference to spatial data (for these purposes data which contains address, locations, or is geographic by nature), with all associated metadata</li> <li>• the <b>second</b> to involve consultation with parties known to have an interest in this area, and invitation of others to participate</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the <b>third</b> phase is to provide legislation, or ministerial delegations or regulations which allow all such data to be automatically raised to the highest standard of re-use, by adoption of the ODBI licence as a default by enabling a “clearing house” approach</li> <li>the <b>fourth</b> is to have the Open Data Unit conduct a specific impact study of the effects of re-use of these data at some later time</li> </ul>												
<p>How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?</p>	<p>The action will increase use and re-use of public sector spatial information. It will place this information on a database, where community members support each other to advise on downloading and re-using.</p>												
<p>Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?</p>	<p>All data with a spatial component published on data.gov.ie raised to a licence standard of ODBI</p>												
<p>Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?</p>	<p>Mark ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ in response</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="646 981 1380 1232"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Transparency <i>(i.e. access to information)</i></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civic participation</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Accountability</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	Transparency <i>(i.e. access to information)</i>	X		Civic participation	X		Public Accountability		X
	Yes	No											
Transparency <i>(i.e. access to information)</i>	X												
Civic participation	X												
Public Accountability		X											
<p>Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?</p>	<p>OpenStreetMap is a community driven opensource store of spatial data for the world, and now has 5 million worldwide contributors of local information, with approximately 6,000 Irish contributors since 2007. Inclusion of publicly held datasets would have the effect of: quickening the completeness of the database and being possible to download free to assist citizens who wish to emphasize an evidence based spatial reality in their public submissions.</p> <p>The OpenStreetMap community is <u>actively collaborating each day</u>, but data sources beyond local knowledge can be limited and consequently the completeness of data is not where it should be in Ireland. Citizen Science is itself a form of Civic Participation, with a good deal of focus on Heritage, Environment and public infrastructure.</p>												
<p>What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?</p>	<p>SDG 6.6. <i>There is constant interest in the OSM community in mapping water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, <u>wetlands, rivers, aquifers, lakes</u> and coastlines</i></p>												

	<p>SDG 6b <i>There is potential to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management simply by mapping these with wider sources</i></p> <p>SDG 7.1 <i>There is ongoing in the OSM community in mapping mapping of <u>energy infrastructure including power lines, sub-stations, but also alternative energy features</u></i></p> <p>SDG 11.4 <i>Heritage is a significant parallel motivation by osm community members, <u>born out by the fact that events take place on heritage week, and a sub-specialism of historic maps has developed within the community- see this Irish community YouTube channel</u></i></p> <p>SDG 11.7 <i>Green spaces within urban areas are being mapped by <u>projects supported by osm data</u></i></p> <p>SDG 16 <i>Specific to the island of Ireland the osm Community in Ireland is set up on an all-island basis promoting peace and inclusivity, <u>which is formally recognised by the OpenStreetMap foundation as a chapter.</u></i></p>		
<p><b>Additional information (if known)</b></p>	<p><i>Some case studies of where sufficient licences were provided to CC-BY-SA or equivalent standard to allow upload to OpenStreetMap:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u><i>make a better roadmap of Flanders (Belgium OSM)</i></u></li> <li>- <u><i>mapping addresses and buildings (OSM UK)</i></u></li> <li>- <u><i>Topology and landuse mapping (Swiss OSM)</i></u></li> </ul> <p><i>Use cases of OpenStreetMap by Irish Government statutory bodies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u><i>FixYourStreet</i></u> <i>which streams fault reports to Local Authorities uses osm</i></li> <li>- <i>The Transport for Ireland (mobile app) uses osm to visual context around travel routes</i></li> <li>- <u><i>Met Eireann</i></u> <i>uses osm to show regions and scale into local weather conditions</i></li> </ul>		
<p><b>Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation</b></p>	<p><b>Who / What organisation (if known)</b></p>	<p><b>When (if known)</b></p>	<p><b>Additional info.</b></p>

<i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i>				
Published a review paper of the limitations to spatial data re-use caused by licence		DPER	Immediate	This may include comparative study of other EU/OECD countries who are increasing the supply of ODBI licenced data
Consultation with Geodata sector organisations		DPER, OSM Ireland, OS Geo, and IRLOGI	On completion of above	Other environmental, transport, and technology based organisations could be consulted
Drafting of legislation, regulations or waivers by statutory/commercially run mapping organisations to be supplied at data.gov.ie publication		DPER, OSI, and others	On completion of above	
Impact studies		DPER	after a period agreed in consultation	
<b>Contact information</b>				
Lead contact name (required)		Ciaran Staunton		
Organisation (if applicable)		OpenStreetMap Ireland		
Role title (if applicable)		Community member (not a Director)		
Email and Phone (required)		<a href="mailto:ciaran.staunton@gmail.com">ciaran.staunton@gmail.com</a> [REDACTED]		
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)		Open Spatial Data		
For GDPR purposes (required)		We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.		Yes
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency			



	<p>CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups</p>	
<p>Transparency:  Publication and Freedom of Information Act</p>		<p><i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i></p> <p><i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i></p>



SUBMISSION # 15.

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Proposed action	
Proposed action Start and End Date (e.g., 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023)	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Department of House, Planning and Local Government
Proposed Action Description	
What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?	<p><i>Basic information in relation to the environment such as information about biodiversity (land use, farms, forests, habitat) is not available to public and environmental groups in an open and transferrable format and so monitoring is not possible.</i></p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OSI vegetation mapping (EPA funded, unpublished, east of country complete, may plan to 'publish' in proprietary 'viewer' format which is no use for end users as cannot export, just print/screenshot) - Bord na Mona peatland mapping - Dept of Ag Forest Dept maps (GIS) - Coillte maps (GIS) - current status is apply on paper, wait 4 weeks for Coillte to review request, can only apply for one species at a time - Boundary maps of national parks (NPWS)... as an aside, NPWS have been refusing to publish national parks maps for long before the Open Data Directive, as the borders of parks are contested with Coillte and/or private landowners, so NPWS simply refuse to publish the maps - Dept of Ag livestock census data. Currently collected with geographic data, but published without so it is impossible for example to map sheep grazing against native woodland, or cattle herd against nitrates - Aquaculture (fish farm stocking</li> </ul>

	<p>levels vs licenses) - Fire data (I believe that NPWS and/or Dept of Ag have 21 and 7 year data, nothing published to facilitate analysis) - Deer data (various sources, eg coillte, Ag, npws, etc currently collected by UCD Wildlife Dept under restriction and their NDAs mean they can't publish the raw deer data) - nothing public in any format</p> <p>Effects: IWT, SWAN, An Taisce, BirdWatch Ireland and local/community SaveX organizations</p>												
<p>What is the proposed action?</p>	<p><i>Implementation of the Open Data Directive in relation to environmental data</i></p>												
<p>How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?</p>	<p><i>When the directive is implemented, it will make the information sources detailed above readily available.</i></p>												
<p>Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?</p>	<p><i>Straightforward availability of open data Straightforward process to seek access to data not easily available at present.</i></p>												
<p>Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?</p>	<p><i>Mark 'Yes' or 'No' in response</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="663 1491 1393 1749"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Civic participation</i></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Public Accountability</i></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>	X		<i>Civic participation</i>			<i>Public Accountability</i>	X	
	Yes	No											
<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>	X												
<i>Civic participation</i>													
<i>Public Accountability</i>	X												
<p>Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?</p>	<p><i>Access to the information will allow an assessment of the degree to which international obligations are being met.</i></p>												

What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?	<i>Clean water, life on land.</i>		
Additional information <i>(if known)</i>			
Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation <i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i>	Who / What organisation <i>(if known)</i>	When <i>(if known)</i>	Additional info.
Best practice investigation and development			
Implement based on best practice			
Consult with the public on implementation to date and future plans			
<b>Contact information</b>			
Lead contact name (required)	Ashley Glover		
Organisation (if applicable)			
Role title (if applicable)			
Email and Phone (required)			
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)			
For GDPR purposes (required)	We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	Yes	No

Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	
<p><b>Transparency:</b></p> <p><b>Publication and Freedom of Information Act</b></p>		<p><i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i></p> <p><i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i></p>

SUBMISSION # 16.

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Proposed action	
Proposed action Start and End Date (e.g., 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023)	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	Dept of Justice
Proposed Action Description	
What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?	<p>Non-resident Irish citizens who live abroad for more than 2 years lose the right to vote in Dail elections and therefore also the ability to influence policy which could affect their decision about returning to live at home in Ireland; e.g. the availability of affordable housing.</p> <p>Irish young people study here -at cost to the taxpayer—and then emigrate for various reasons relating to difficulties living at home, working conditions and finding employment here.</p>
What is the proposed action?	Create legislation for a non-resident citizens group who could elect specific members of parliament to represent citizens abroad.
How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?	<p>If aspiring TDs strive to ascertain the wish of non-resident citizens, and value their expertise which is now being enjoyed by another state, they would work to ameliorate the negative factors which keep Irish non-residents abroad and make it difficult for them to return home.</p> <p>Our population working/contributing their skills at home, this enriching our society and reducing fragmentation of families.</p>
Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?	Re-uniting of families; more scientific or other expertise becoming available to Irish health, business or other areas in service or industry, this enriching our society. One glaring

	example is the dearth of medical consultants and other health professionals in Ireland.		
Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?	<i>Mark 'Yes' or 'No' in response</i>		
		Yes	No
	<i>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</i>		
	<i>Civic participation</i>	x	
	<i>Public Accountability</i>	x	
Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?	<b>Civic Participation</b> This proposed commitment is related to the values of civic participation as it is addressing the lack of voting and political engagement rights of citizens living abroad for more than two years.		
What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?	<b>SDG 16</b> Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels		
Additional information (if known)			
Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation <i>(Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</i>	Who / What organisation <i>(if known)</i>	When <i>(if known)</i>	Additional info.
Research into graduate aspirations	Universities and technical colleges	On or before graduation	



Contact information							
Lead contact name (required)		Ingrid Masterson					
Organisation (if applicable)		Green Party					
Role title (if applicable)							
Email and Phone (required)		[REDACTED]					
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)		Mental health; use of power in relationships and in organizations; political reform					
For GDPR purposes (required)		We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	X	
Yes	No						
X							
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency						
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups						
<p>Transparency:</p> <p>Publication and Freedom of Information Act</p>		<p><i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i></p> <p><i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment</i></p>					

	<p><i>function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i></p>
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# SUBMISSION #17

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Development of a Centre for the Arts and Equality	
Proposed action Start and End Date (e.g., 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023)	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	<p>This should be led by a cross department commitment to funding – including the following departments</p> <p>Department of Health and the HSE contact is Ruth Armstrong in the office of Social Inclusion.</p> <p>Department of Education</p> <p>Department of Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport &amp; the Gaeltacht</p> <p>Department of Children, Disability, Equality &amp; Integration</p> <p>Climate Action, Communication Networks &amp; Transport</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs and Defence</p> <p>Linked to the reconciliation Fund contact is – Amy Smith</p> <p>Department of European Affairs</p> <p>Department Social Protection, Community &amp; Rural Development and the Islands</p> <p><i>To help us: If known, please share the work contact details for any official who would be able provide us with additional background and/or a status update of ongoing work in the policy areas pertaining to your proposed action.</i></p>
Proposed Action Description	
What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?	<p>Although Ireland has through a number of government departments have promoted human rights. Some of the government departments and programmes such as : The Global Island: Ireland's Foreign Policy for a Changing World (January 2015), the Government made a commitment to improve the coherence of the promotion and protection of human rights in Ireland's Foreign Policy, including through the establishment of an Inter-Departmental Committee on Human Rights. Who has a Committee is chaired by the Minister of State and its responsibilities include assisting progress towards the ratification by Ireland of key international</p>

human rights treaties and ensuring timely reporting to human rights monitoring bodies.

In addition there is the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission who's work s to protect and promote human rights and equality in Ireland and build a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding in the State. The commission works on policy, documentation and monitoring human rights abuses and provide practical support and legal advice to individuals experiencing human rights violations.

Neither of these organisations specialise on the power of the arts and creative process to promote human rights not do they provide a history of how the arts have promoted human rights on the island of Ireland and around the world. The arts and culture have played a strong role in the development of the Ireland of Ireland in addition to promoting the vision of the country of a egalitarian society which values creative activity for all. More recently the Arts have played a strong role in the promotion of peace and reconciliation in northern Ireland and the challenging and updating Irish laws such as marriage equality and the reform of the 8<sup>th</sup> amendment.

We see a rise in global interest in the role of the Arts in promoting a range of issues and promoting human rights and believe that Ireland should be at the centre of this global discussion. Thought the establishment of a dedicated centre for the Arts and Equality / human rights – this can become a centre of excellence for the practice and place Ireland at the centre of global expertise in the area.

We believe that Ireland should play a strong role in the promotion of Human Rights globally by building on the impact of our recent legislation changes ie Marriage Equality, Repeal of the 8<sup>th</sup> amendment, the ongoing peace in northern Ireland and the securing of a place on the United Nations Security Council. All these actions have placed Ireland in a strong position globally to take a lead in the promotion of Human Rights. This coupled with the strong global reputation Ireland has for high quality Arts we would see as a natural coupling for the Development of an International Centre for the Arts and Equality.

	<p><b><i>Tip: Describe the social, economic, political, or environmental problem addressed by the proposed action. When available, include baseline data and contextual facts.</i></b></p>
<p>What is the proposed action?</p>	<p>The aim is to establish the Smashing Times International Centre and Museum for the Arts and Equality as a unique space dedicated to the promotion, study and practice of the arts, human rights, climate justice, gender equality, diversity and peace. There is a growing interest in the intersection between the arts, equality and human rights. The centre will be a place for visitors from Ireland and around the world to come and learn about and celebrate artistic practice for equality, human rights and diversity in Ireland and internationally, cultivating a dynamic model for artistic, community, educational and civic engagement.</p> <p>Smashing Times is an international organisation working with artists and communities to create collaborative art practice in local, national, European and international settings. Our mission is to lead the development of the arts to promote and advance equality and human rights and to connect citizens to the arts, human rights, climate justice and gender equality. The centre and museum will operate as a world class arts space and digital hub for artists, citizens, communities and the general public across Ireland, Northern Ireland and internationally. Core services consist of membership, resources, advice and the implementation of a range of innovative projects promoting professional and collaborative arts practice and a youth arts Ensemble. The centre will promote membership, networking, training, guidance, support and advocacy in relation to using high quality creative processes, collaborative arts practice, research and new digital technologies to promote equality and human rights for all.</p> <p>Led by Director Mary Moynihan and producer Freda Manweiler, the centre will produce an annual interdisciplinary arts programme with a focus on cultural engagement, economic and international development, tourism, education and new digital technologies. All artistic</p>

mediums are supported with a focus on the performing and collaborative arts including theatre, film, visual arts, dance and music. With its global reputation for excellence, and its history running arts and human rights-based projects both nationally and internationally, Smashing Times draws upon its vast experience in the creation of this innovative space.

The centre will house a digital museum which brings to life Ireland's history, heritage and culture related to the arts and equality, providing a unique, immersive community and visitor cultural experience. The space tells the extraordinary and fascinating stories of courageous Irish men and women from history and today who have promoted equality in Ireland and around the globe. Exhibitions cover change makers of Irish folklore; the invasions of Ireland; events such as the Famine; the 1916 to 1923 decade of centenaries; votes for women; stories from WWI and WWII and Irish people in the Resistance, during WWII; the Peace Process in Ireland and Northern Ireland; and the stories of Irish human rights defenders and trailblazers today from our president Michael D. Higgins to former president Mary Robinson to actors such as Liam Cunningham from Game of Thrones.

Smashing Times work in partnership with a range of organisations including Trinity College Dublin, Ulster University, Front Line Defenders, Amnesty International, National Women's Council of Ireland, Poetry Ireland, Trócaire, Fighting Words, Art Nomads, Irish Modern Dance Theatre, Theatremaker.ie, dlr Mill Theatre, Rua Red South Dublin Arts Centre, The Civic, Enable Ireland, Heritage Services Dublin Castle and Rathfarnham Castle and a wide number of community groups.

The company also supports the professional development of artists through our Artist Professional Development Programme, under the curatorship of artist Mary Moynihan and brings together artists to connect and to explore ways to highlight the work of artists who are using their artforms to explore and celebrate human rights. Sixty-two artists were involved in 2020 as part of the Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival and this year we are working with the artists on an Arts Council funded project, State of the Art– The Nation

	<p>State as both Violator and Protector of Human Rights, using the arts to celebrate equality, human rights and diversity.</p> <p><i>Tip: Describe what the proposed action involves, its expected results, and overall objective. When considering this question, the next question and the later question on 'suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation', will help refine and clarify and focus your proposed action.</i></p>
<p><b>How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?</b></p>	<p>Though the creation of the Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality we would bring together the long history of artists who use their particular art form to promote a Human Rights Agenda. To celebrate their work in the area and also to highlight the need for the continuation of the work using Arts to promote a Human Rights.</p> <p><i>Tip: Describe how the proposed action will contribute to solving the problem or/and influence government practice towards addressing the problem. In order to do this, explain how the proposed commitment will be implemented in conjunction with the later question 'suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation'. Provide a clear description of how the milestones listed will achieve what the proposed action sets out to do and obtain the expected results that will contribute to solving the problem.</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?</b></p>	<p>Secure a long-term physical premises and establish the Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality as a world-class visitor centre and digital museum for arts and human rights with permanent and visiting exhibitions, a café and sustainable garden, providing a membership, resource, advice and advocacy service alongside current and historical exhibitions and a range of activities, projects and training implemented on a local, national and international basis</p> <p>Build the Smashing Times International Online Centre with a membership network across Ireland, Europe and internationally and facilitate opportunities for members to interact, network, communicate and share information and learning using the arts to promote equality, human rights, and diversity for all. Actions include meetings, arts-based</p>

	<p>events, workshops, online and face-to-face training, working collaboratively and strategically to build strong national and international partnerships and to facilitate the transfer of good practice and policy research.</p> <p>We will Provide a resource, advice and advocacy service for individuals and organisations. Services include website, social media, research, policy, advocacy (publications, submissions), newsletter, arts blogs, vlogs, podcasts, networking, online discussion forum, journal of arts and human rights and an advice service via telephone and face-to-face.</p> <p>We will Implement an annual professional and collaborative arts programme – producing artistic plays and multi-disciplinary performances, film screenings, visual and digital art exhibitions, books, panel discussions and debates, public talks, national and transnational creative arts symposiums and conferences and projects, festivals and international artist exchanges, and training in the arts and for leadership and employment – all using the arts to promote equality for all. Annual events include the Dublin International Arts and Human Rights Festival, the Winter Solstice and Summer Solstice Festivals, outreach programmes and international artist exchanges and residencies</p> <p><b>House a Digital Museum for Arts and Human Rights</b> displaying permanent and temporary digital media exhibitions showcasing the extraordinary work of human rights defenders in Ireland and around the world – past and present – and the role of the arts and artists in promoting human right today, bringing to life the stories of courageous Irish men and women who campaigned for the rights of others in Ireland and on an international basis. Visitors and tourists have access to the public arts-based programme and exhibitions, installations and collections. Heritage and historical trails include Women’s Heritage Trails, Peace Heritage Trails focused on the peace process in Northern Ireland, and Equality Heritage Trails.</p> <p><b>TRAINING FOR CREATIVITY, LEADERSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT</b></p> <p><b>Provide high quality Training for Communities</b> in leadership, entrepreneurial and soft skills development for employment, implemented through an annual programme of workshops, training courses and masterclasses suitable for youth and adults, enabling communities to realise their potential</p> <p><b>Provide professional development, training and support for Professional Artists</b> in relation to creativity, arts practice</p>
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development and innovation and in Arts Facilitation in Participatory Contexts

**RIGHTS AND ENGAGEMENT**

**Open up the centre as a cultural and digital hub for direct use by local people as a community resource for creative engagement and training, working collaboratively with people from all ages and cultures, particularly with areas and groups experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation.**

**Establish a Youth Café and Sustainable Garden with all activities open to youth and bring young people from a European and International context to work with youth in Ireland**

**Establish National Creative Arts and Human Rights Volunteer programme and 40 Creative Arts and Human Rights hubs around Ireland**

*To help us: While recognising that it is often challenging, please share with us any suggested way of measuring how members of the public would benefit from the proposed action and/or measuring the effect of the proposed action.*

Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?

Mark 'Yes' or 'No' in response

	Yes	No
Transparency <i>(i.e. access to information)</i>	Yes	
Civic participation	Yes	
Public Accountability	Yes	

*Tip: Use the following questions to guide your response:*

- *Is the proposed action disclosing more information, improving the quality of the information disclosed, improving accessibility of information to the public or enabling the right to information?  
If yes, this proposed action is relevant to **Transparency (i.e. access to information).***
- *Is the proposed action creating or improving opportunities, or capabilities for the public to inform*

	<p>or influence decisions? Is the proposed commitment creating or improving the enabling environment for civil society? If yes, this proposed action is relevant to <b>civic participation</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the proposed action creating or improving rules, regulations, and mechanisms to publicly hold government officials answerable to their actions? If yes, the proposed action is relevant to <b>public accountability</b>.</li> <li>• Is the proposed action enhancing the use of technology and innovation to enable public involvement in government and will enhance at least one of: access to information, public participation, or public accountability? If yes, the proposed action is relevant to that value(s), either <b>transparency (i.e. access to information; civic participation and/or public accountability)</b>.</li> </ul>
<p>Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?</p>	
<p>What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?</p>	<p>Please state the SDG goal (and sub-group).</p> <p>SUCCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY</p> <p>The Centre will support Project Ireland 2040 by using the arts to make Ireland a better country to live in for all its people, promoting high quality international connectivity through cultural engagement and access to a quality arts experience that can enhance a better quality of life.</p> <p>Supports Global Ireland 2025 by promoting Irish arts, heritage and culture to new audiences across the world, increasing visibility, awareness and enhancement of Ireland's reputation across Europe and promoting Ireland's values of peace, humanity, democracy, equality and justice.</p> <p><i>Tip: The Sustainable Development Goals and sub-goals are outlined on the <a href="#">United Nation website</a>. Note also, the <a href="#">Irish website</a> with relevant data and case studies.</i></p>

<p><b>Additional information (if known)</b></p>	<p><i>Use this optional space to provide other information on the wider context of your proposed action</i></p> <p><i>Tip: For example you may wish to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Links to the <u>Programme for Government (1506 commitments)</u></i></li> <li>● <i>Links to other government programs (for example for civic participation maybe one of the actions in Department of Rural and Community Development's <u>'Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland (2019-2024)'</u> might be relevant.</i></li> <li>● <i>Links to Ireland's National Development Plan <u>'Project Ireland 2040'</u> or other sectoral or local plans.</i></li> </ul>		
<p><b>Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation (Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)</b></p>	<p><b>Who / What organisation (if known)</b></p>	<p><b>When (if known)</b></p>	<p><b>Additional info.</b></p>
<p>Organise a cross department meeting to discuss the establishment of an International Centre for the Arts and Equality to discuss the establishment of the centre and the impact of the centre on the work of each department. The meeting would also look at the method of providing funding for the Centre.</p>	<p>This should be led by a cross department commitment to funding – including the following departments</p> <p>Department of Health and the HSE contact is Ruth Armstrong in the office of Social Inclusion.</p> <p>Department of Education Department of Media,</p>	<p>June 2022</p>	

	<p>Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport &amp; the Gaeltacht</p> <p>Department of Children, Disability, Equality &amp; Integration</p> <p>Climate Action, Communication Networks &amp; Transport</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs and Defence</p> <p>Linked to the reconciliation Fund contact is – Amy Smith</p> <p>Department of European Affairs</p> <p>Department Social Protection, Community &amp; Rural Development and the Islands</p>		
<p><i>To help us: If known, please share the work contact details for any official who would be able provide us with additional</i></p>			

	<i>background and/or a status update of ongoing work in the policy areas pertaining to your proposed action.</i>		
For the lead organisation Smashing Times to work with Local Authorities and government departments to secure a premises to establish the International centre for Arts and Equality	To work closely with Local Authorities / Dublin City council and South Dublin County Council in Addition to the Department of Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport & the Gaeltacht	Ongoing – starting immediately to be secured by December 2022	
Confirm government department funding	All departments	Ongoing	
Roll out the annual programme of work		January 2021	
<b>Contact information</b>			
Lead contact name (required)	Freda Manweiler		
Organisation (if applicable)	Smashing Times Centre for the Arts and Equality		
Role title (if applicable)	Company Manager		

Email and Phone (required)		freda@smashingtimes.ie [REDACTED]	
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)		Arts as it explores a range of issues and supports civic engagement and promotes human rights.	
For GDPR purposes (required)		We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	Yes
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	Involved by supporting the centre through funding	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Supporting by providing private sponsorship to the services provided.  An advisory group developed from a range of stakeholders.	
Transparency:  Publication and Freedom of Information Act		<p><i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i></p> <p><i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment function) if you believe that any part of this submission should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i></p>	

# SUBMISSION # 18

Open Government 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan	
Proposed action	
Proposed action Start and End Date (e.g., 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2023) PPN structure change based on civic stakeholder feedback, as per Structure Review and National Secretariats feedback.	
Who do you think would be the lead implementing Government Department(s) / agency (if known and any relevant contact details)	DRCD, Ciara Bates and team  <i>To help us: If known, please share the work contact details for any official who would be able provide us with additional background and/or a status update of ongoing work in the policy areas pertaining to your proposed action.</i>
<b>Proposed Action Description</b>	
What is the public problem that the proposed action will address?	<i>PPNS, in theory, are designed to encourage and enable civic participation in local policy. However, after 7 years, its clear it is a box ticking exercise for public consultations, which allow the LAs and Gv depts to do whatever they were already planning on doing. There is no DELIBERATION, no collective dialogue and no measurable INFLUENCE on LA committees. As a result, great volunteers are burning out and leaving the process of enagement and influence.  Tip: Describe the social, economic, political, or environmental problem addressed by the proposed action. When available, include baseline data and contextual facts.</i>
What is the proposed action?	<i>NSPPNs and extensve stakeholder enagement have now reported huge barriers in the PPN structure.  We need Diversity and Inclusion training and remits for all LAs. These must include measures and actions across race, age, gender, class etc  Independent chairs (not council staff/ reps) on committes.  Committee processes that enable real deliveration.  Commitment from LAs that PPN reps will have a measureable INFLUENCE on policy, which includes</i>

	<p><i>transparent reporting measures to PPN reps about the process.</i></p> <p><i>Tip: Describe what the proposed action involves, its expected results, and overall objective. When considering this question, the next question and the later question on 'suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation', will help refine and clarify and focus your proposed action.</i></p>
<p><b>How will the proposed action to solving the public problem?</b></p>	<p><i>PPN reps are predominatly white, middle aged and middle class which can ony represent a particular need of society.</i></p> <p><i>Deliberative measures and training will increase the understanding and better the actions of complex issues.</i></p> <p><i>LA reporting and feedback loops will foster trust and further willingness for participation.</i></p> <p><i>Tip: Describe how the proposed action will contribute to solving the problem or/and influence government practice towards addressing the problem. In order to do this, explain how the proposed commitment will be implemented in conjunction with the later question 'suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation'. Provide a clear description of how the milestones listed will achieve what the proposed action sets out to do and obtain the expected results that will contribute to solving the problem.</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what successful implementation of the proposed action would look like?</b></p>	<p><i>More diverse PPN reps.</i></p> <p><i>Robust, people-friendly, dialogue rich power sharing processes of committees that lead to really meaningful enagement and actions.</i></p> <p><i>LAs report back on big picture and small picture actions, in a timeframe that aligns with activities, highlighting PPN ideas and where they are and are not being implemented, and why.</i></p> <p><i>Right of response and further dialogue and feedback taken on.</i></p> <p><i>LA staff accountable.</i></p>



	<p>To help us: While recognising that it is often challenging, please share with us any suggested way of measuring how members of the public would benefit from the proposed action and/or measuring the effect of the proposed action.</p>												
<p>Which Open Government value(s) does your proposed action relates too?</p>	<p>Mark 'Yes' or 'No' in response</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="646 560 1374 815"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</td> <td>Y</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civic participation</td> <td>Y</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Accountability</td> <td>Y</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Tip: Use the following questions to guide your response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the proposed action disclosing more information, improving the quality of the information disclosed, improving accessibility of information to the public or enabling the right to information? If yes, this proposed action is relevant to <b>Transparency (i.e. access to information)</b>.</li> <li>• Is the proposed action creating or improving opportunities, or capabilities for the public to inform or influence decisions? Is the proposed commitment creating or improving the enabling environment for civil society? If yes, this proposed action is relevant to <b>civic participation</b>.</li> <li>• Is the proposed action creating or improving rules, regulations, and mechanisms to publicly hold government officials answerable to their actions? If yes, the proposed action is relevant to <b>public accountability</b>.</li> <li>• Is the proposed action enhancing the use of technology and innovation to enable public involvement in government and will enhance at least one of: access to information, public participation, or public accountability? If yes, the proposed action is relevant to that value(s), <b>either transparency (i.e. access to</b></li> </ul>		Yes	No	Transparency (i.e. access to information)	Y		Civic participation	Y		Public Accountability	Y	
	Yes	No											
Transparency (i.e. access to information)	Y												
Civic participation	Y												
Public Accountability	Y												

	<b>information; civic participation and/or public accountability.</b>		
Describe how this proposed action is relevant to the Open Government value(s) identified?			
What Sustainable Development Goal does this proposed action relate too (if known)?	<p>Please state the SDG goal (and sub-group).</p> <p>Tip: The Sustainable Development Goals and sub-goals are outlined on the <a href="#">United Nation website</a>. Note also, the <a href="#">Irish website</a> with relevant data and case studies.</p>		
Additional information (if known)	<p>Use this optional space to provide other information on the wider context of your proposed action</p> <p>Tip: For example you may wish to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links to the <a href="#">Programme for Government</a> (1506 commitments)</li> <li>• Links to other government programs (for example for civic participation maybe one of the actions in Department of Rural and Community Development's '<a href="#">Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland (2019-2024)</a>' might be relevant.</li> <li>• Links to Ireland's National Development Plan '<a href="#">Project Ireland 2040</a>' or other sectoral or local plans.</li> </ul>		
Suggested next steps and milestones to guide implementation (Don't forget to capture and detail any public facing element desired; e.g. stakeholder engagement)	Who / What organisation (if known)	When (if known)	Additional info.
Contact information			

Lead contact name (required)					
Organisation (if applicable)					
Role title (if applicable)					
Email and Phone (required)					
Special interest and/or policy area of expertise (optional)					
For GDPR purposes (required)		We would like your permission, by marking yes or no, to retain your contact details in order to provide you with updates in relation Open Government in Ireland; e.g. launch of the National Action Plan; invitation to participate activities in your areas of interest; future relevant consultations; etc.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No
Yes	No				
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency				
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups				
<b>Transparency:</b>  <b>Publication and Freedom of Information Act</b>		<i>The Open Government Round Table will publish a list of who/what organisations made submissions.</i>  <i>All submissions received are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. In the interests of transparency, the Open Government Round Table may decide to publish the submissions in full. Please indicate (using insert comment function) if you believe that any part of this submission</i>			

	<i>should be redacted with the legislative reference.</i>
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