

Open Data Engagement Fund

What is Open Data?

“A piece of data or content is open if anyone is free to use, reuse, and redistribute it- subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and/or share-alike” (Open Data Handbook¹)

Open Knowledge² defines Open as “anyone can freely access, use, modify, and share for any purpose (subject, at most, to requirements that preserve provenance and openness).”

The concept of Open Data is about making data held by public bodies available and easily accessible online for reuse and redistribution.

Open Data Governance Board

An Open Data Governance Board (ODGB) has been established to provide strategic leadership and governance in line with best international practice in the area of Open Data. It is tasked with considering how to improve the capacity and capability of public bodies in implementing Open Data, and considering opportunities to maximise the value of public sector data and information for long-term economic, social and democratic benefits. The ODGB will make recommendations to Government in this regard.

The ODGB’s mandate allows it to consider how to ensure an Open Data Initiative that meets the needs of users and helps public bodies to plan their activities accordingly and encourage an ongoing collaborative process.

Introducing a Support Fund

One of the tools designed to support the Open Data Initiative is a competitive Open Data Engagement Fund. The ODGB will consider applications for support towards improving the availability and usage of data on the data.gov.ie portal. This could include but not be limited to the following:

- a) outreach and engagement activities with and by public bodies to promote the release and/or usage of Open Data, e.g. training, seminars, workshops, discussion groups etc.;
- b) sponsoring the holding of competitions to promote open data usage or the holding of events such as technical hackathons or conferences;
- c) promoting the innovative use of data published through data.gov.ie; this could include the building of apps or new products/services to demonstrate the use that can be made of open data; the creation of use cases; or/and the development of interactive visualisations to demonstrate data usage from data.gov.ie

¹ <http://opendatahandbook.org/guide/en/what-is-open-data/>

² <http://opendefinition.org/>

Applicants may select one or more of the above elements but a separate application form should be completed for each one.

Selection Criteria

Applications can be made by any organisation or individual. This includes *inter alia* a public body, business, research body, university, school, college, civil society group. An individual applicant must have a reference from an organisation e. g. school/college etc. to show that they are bona fide.

A sub-committee of the ODGB will consider each application and decide on whether funding will be provided and if successful the level of same. The level of the applicant's own investment (e.g. time, funds) will be taken into account. In the selection process the decision of the sub-committee is final and no discussion shall be entered into with applicants.

Funding for successful applications will be allocated as follows:

Category	Activity/Project	Maximum Funding Allowed
(a) Outreach and Engagement	Support for Training/presentations/seminars (per day)	€800
	Workshops (per day)	€800
	Discussion Groups	€200
(b) Sponsored Competitions and Events	Sponsorship of competitions (including prizes)	€5000
	Holding hackathons (refreshments, venue etc.)	€300 - €1000 depending on scale
	Holding conferences/events	€1000 - €3000 depending on scale
(c) Innovative Use of Data/Projects	Apps (development and promotion of usage)	€1000 - €3000 depending on scale
	Development of Use Cases (research, project development, benefits realisation, promotion)	€1000 - €3000 depending on scale
	Development of Interactive visualisations	€800

A minimum funding allocation of €200 and maximum of €5000 will apply.

Applications must demonstrate real benefits / impact and set out how these would be measured.

In respect of (a), the activity must

- represent value for money
- demonstrate clear audience benefits/impacts

In respect of (b) and (c), the project seeking funding must

- use at least two datasets from data.gov.ie

- represent value for money
- use open data in a fresh or innovative way
- represent the appropriate use of data and be user friendly
- demonstrate clear audience benefits/impacts for example, social impact, usage by business/industry leading to economic impact, transparency, accountability impact
- demonstrate scalability of use

Successful applicants will report on their activity for example via a blog post and will be required, where applicable, to have their project developed into a use case for promotion of the open data initiative or other promotional activity as determined by the ODGB.

Applications

Applications should be made on the Engagement Fund Application Form and should be submitted by email to opendata@per.gov.ie. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 16th November at 5pm.