**OGP Civil Society Forum Meeting**

**Draft Summary Meeting Notes**

**25/03/14**

**Civil Society Members Present:** Anne Colgan (chair), Flora Fleischer (OKF Ireland), Nuala Haughey (TASC, TI Ireland), Ingo Keck, Angela Long, Antoin Ó Lachtnain, Denis Parfenov (Active Citizen/OKF Ireland), Edward Stevenson, Jane Suiter (DCU).

**In attendance:** Claire O’Keeffe (CSF Administrator)

Apologies: Nat O’Connor (TASC)

**Discussion on DPER’s OGP National Action Plan**

* The aim of the discussion is to generate a reasonable response to DPER’s Draft NAP. CSF decided on which action proposals (a) are broadly acceptable, (b) need more work (c) CSF wants to make an addition. It was agreed that all action points with the exception of 2.2, need work. Antoin Ó Lachtnain (AOL) offered his own edits of DPER’s Draft NAP to the CSF. You can see his document here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yGIBoJhAswyMlinHMhwR-0dQpXizg9iumX4U-HPAZZU/edit>
* All edits to incorporate comments and suggestions made by CSF are in red, under DPER’s original text. You can see CSF’s response to DPER’s Draft NAP in the following working document: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1l2CotWwLulQ0a6zrJoniuqGq6ZGizgUvksDCKUmCPew/edit>
* It was agreed that all the introductory text in the document needs work and will be examined at a later stage.

**The group collectively went through DPER’s Draft NAP outline and made the following edits/additions:**

**Open Data and Transparency**

* **Action 1.1 (Establishment of best practice standards for Open Data)** was edited to include “licencing of” (Best practice standards for the publication and **licensing of** Open Data in Ireland will be established).
* **Action 1.2 (Development of an Open Data Ireland Alpha Platform):** AOL’s edits were inserted, including a request for clarification on DPER’s wording.
* **Action 1.3** (**Undertake an audit of key datasets for publication):** AOL’s text was inserted and further edits were made to indicate that the process is ongoing, and measured against best practice.
* **Action 1.4 (Establish an evaluation framework to provide assessment of the ongoing Open Data project)** AOL’s edits (highlighting the use of “A roadmap” in evaluation procedures)were inserted.
* **Action 1.5 (Establishment of a Steering and Implementation Group and Open Data Ireland Governance board)** AOL’s edits were inserted.
* **Action 1.6 (Signing up to the G8 Open Data Charter)** CSF agreed that 1.6 could be added to **Action** 1.1 if more space was needed. AOL’s text was inserted, which points to Action 1.4.
* **CSF proposed new Action Point:** Inserted Action 1.7 Make introduction to computer science a compulsory subject in primary school.

**Fostering citizen participation/more active citizenship**

* **Action 2.1 (Customer improvements to be implemented)** CSF agreed proposed projects are weak.
* **Action 2.3 (Assess and facilitate the potential of Open Data for greater citizen participation)** CSF will follow up with DPER for more detail on this.
* **Action 2.4 (Increase citizen participation in decision making) CSF agreed that this needed work**
* **Action** **2.5 (Support Children and Young People as citizens)** AOL’s text was inserted, with emphasis on plan implementation with timelines. CSF added a sub-point:
* Action 2.5.1 - Maximise participation by young people in Civic Social and Political Education (CSPE) in junior cycle and roll out Politics and Society as a Leaving Certificate option to all schools.
* **CSF propose new Action Point:** Action 2.6 Identify and promote existing best practice (our local government action) with sub-points;
* Action 2.6.1 - (Develop and Implement Creative Citizenship Models at Local Level) Evaluate and mainstream the pilot citizen jury project “People Talk” currently operating in Galway Co Council.
* Action 2.6.2 Train Civil Servants in Open Government and Citizen Participation. Raise awareness of Peoples Participation Networks (PPNs); train civil servants in PPNs and train citizens in PPNs.
* **CSF propose new Action Point :** Action 2.7 Proposal that needs to find a home - updating training and raising awareness of consultation guidelines Reaching Out to take into account new communication technologies including social media.
* **CSF propose new Action Point:** Action 2.8 Introduce pilot participatory budgeting in some local authority areas in line with Putting People First policy. Evaluate and develop mainstreaming strategy.
* **CSF propose new Action Point:** Action 2.9 Ensure the Oireachtas debates the recommendations of the Constitutional Convention within the statutory timeframes, and hold all necessary referendums.

**Rebuilding public trust in Government - strengthening governance and accountability**

* **3.1 (Ethics Reform)** AOL’s edits were inserted and further edits were made to state the inclusion of recommendations from international accountability bodies.
* **3.2** (**Strengthening Freedom of Information)** AOL’s edits were inserted. Further SCF edits were made to wording, (promote changed to mandate) referencing adherence to PFG to restore FOI Act by abolishing upfront fees.
* **3.3 (Regulation of Lobbying) CSF’s edits:** Gov approval for publication and enactment of a Regulation of Lobbying Bill and the introduction of Transparency Code, including a Legislative Footprint.
* **3.4 (Whistleblower Protection)** AOL’s edits inserted. ‘Whistleblowers’ changed to ‘all citizens’ and ‘the government changed to ‘all public authorities’.

**Other Comments/Additions**

* AOL added context on the ratification of the Aarhus Convention to Draft NAP **Open Government: Progress to Date** section of theintroduction. CSF inserted AOL’s edits.
* CSF said Action Point 2.3 **(Access and facilitate the potential of Open Data for greater citizen participation)** will be examined when further information is supplied by DPER.
* CSF suggested that there should be an Annex attached to NAP to consolidate finer details in bullet point format rather than narrative.
* The word, sustainability, should be used more often throughout.
* Outstanding Action Points which still need to be discussed: 1. Consultation proposal 1.02.2 Re Comptroller and Auditor General and 1.07 re UNCAC implementation

**Other Business**

* An Open Letter has been drafted by some members of civil society on the issue of the abolition of FOI fees. It was agreed that this draft letter would be circulated widely and get as many signatures as possible. It was proposed that the letter would not be sent in the name of the Civil Society Forum, although individuals and organisations who are members of the forum could sign it if they wished.
* Thanks to Antoin for all his work on editing the Draft NAP document
* The administrator gave a workload update and will be taking two days off in consideration of a family bereavement.
* The draft notes of the last CSF meeting on 18 March 2014 were agreed. These are available [here](https://dgroups.org/hivos/ogp/ogpirl/library/wd1f9m1t?o=lc).
* CSF was informed that two people had responded to an email call for volunteers to take part in a civil-society led review of Ireland’s OGP – Angela Long and Shawn Day.
* It was agreed to download DPER’s draft NAP Outline, with CSF’s edits and amendments, as well as comments in the margins and to forward this to DPER ahead of the next meeting of the JWG on 27 March 2014.