OGP Civil Society Forum Meeting

Draft Summary Meeting Notes

01/04/14

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

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

**Apologies:** Nat O’Connor (TASC)

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**Update on Joint Working Group meeting (March 27th)**

* Joint Working Group Members went through the NAP working document and agreed on further revisions.
* It was agreed that a meeting will take place with Insight NUIG, members of civil society and DPER to progress wording on Open Data Action Points within the National Action Plan. The meeting date is to be confirmed.
* Meetings with the Departments of Environment (April 4th) and Justice (April 9th) have been confirmed. Details of the meetings and CS attendees can be found [here.](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18vlJJUcYHZlyBf2ozDLKdg1h-DmbrWUcTT3INDOfR-g/edit)

**DPER reviewed Nation Action Plan**

The group went through the DPER annotated and reviewed Nation Action Plan and made additions and comments – marked in red and underlined. This document can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AN6QsvdO9L5a3CyUMUee0ZluEOVPzseMGu_zEbsrIxQ/edit).

**Notes on revised NAP**

* **Action 1.2 -** (Establishment of Ireland’s Open Data Platform). Group proposed that this is discussed at the upcoming meeting with Insight, where the comments made by CS members will be taken into account.
* **Action 1.7 –** Make introduction to computer science a compulsory subject in primary school. Awaiting feedback from DPER re consultation with Dept. of Education.
* It was noted that DPER merged Capacity Building (originally AP 4) with Citizen Participation (AP 2)

**Action 2.4** – (Increase citizen participation in decision making) proposal to add link to a list of current government undertakings for increased citizen participation.

* A proposal was brought to the table to broaden two Citizen Engagement action plan proposals for and leave out one of them:
* **Action 2.6 -** (Identify and promote existing best practice (our local government action))**suggested change current text to:** ‘Identify and promote best practice in citizen participation at local level; Create a repository of evaluated models of citizen participation at local and national level in Ireland and internationally’ [can include Guidelines]
* **Action 2.8** **- suggested change current text to:**Undertake a scoping exercise to lay the groundwork for participatory budgeting and other means of enabling citizens to contribute to local authority budgetary processes.
* **Proposal to remove 2.6.2** (*Raise awareness of Peoples’ Participation Networks (PPNs); train civil servants in PPNs and train citizens in PPNs)*
* Group proposed that DPER’s Action Point 3.3 (Restoration and Extension of FOI) be deleted.

**FOI Open Letter**

* Some members of Civil Society formulated an open letter to Minister Brendan Howlin. The letter details the necessity of abolishing FOI fees. There was discussion around sending the letter as a Civil Society Forum or as individual citizens/organisations and it was proposed that the letter be circulated before a decision is made. The open letter can be read [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11KyCmA6fgXvDdqeYUrLorFuXxUxV9jUg5Y9mxU8eqk8/edit).

There was also a discussion around the timing, aim and impact of such a letter – whether it would be a legitimate protest ahead of the May conference reflecting the strong consensus opinion against FOI fees at the summer consultations, or might it actually change policy.

**Update on OGP Europe Regional Conference Conference (8/9 May)**

* The next conference planning meeting will be held on Friday (April 4).
* Thirty-seven submissions have been received to date and they are currently being refined and shaped. The conference will consist of 16 parallel sessions in addition to plenaries.

**OGP Ireland Website**

* There was a proposal to remove the reference to TASC on the contact page of the OGP website. It was agreed to revise the contact page to say ‘Care of’ TASC.
* It was proposed that the Twitter feed on the website be amended to include all tweets with hashtag OGP IRL (#OGPirl) to broaden the conversation. The broader issue of the management of the ogpireland.ie website was discussed at length, in particular the need for it to reflect input from all Civil Society Forum members. While TASC is responsible for moderating the website there were suggestions for page updates for the administrator to work on in the coming week. It was pointed out that everyone is invited to include their copy suggestions in a google document. It is available [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/138k3StILMPjMl3ELWrUWxJxUciLVSSp1oYXDW4eWJkY/edit).
* There was dissatisfaction on the part of some members regarding their perception that DPER works with certain organisations and not others. It was stated that this was an issue for DPER and not for the Forum.

**Other Business**

* There was a request to locate and read Local Government Reform Act. The Act can be found [here](http://www.environ.ie/en/LocalGovernment/LocalGovernmentReform/).
* The administrator highlighted that DPER requested names of civil society attendees of the meeting with Dept. of Environment on April 4th and it was agreed that five people ([noted in CS member, Flora Fleischer’s document](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18vlJJUcYHZlyBf2ozDLKdg1h-DmbrWUcTT3INDOfR-g/edit)) will be the people attending.
* Notes of the March 25th CS Forum meeting were modified and agreed and are available [here](https://dgroups.org/hivos/ogp/ogpirl/library/wd1f9m1t?o=lc).