# OGP Joint Working Group

# DRAFT Summary Meeting Notes

**6/2/14**

**Attendees:** William Beausang (DPER), Evelyn O'Connor (DPER), Claire Martinez (DPER) and Conor McCann (DPER). The civil society members in attendance were:  Anne Colgan; Antoin Ó Lachtnain (Digital Rights Ireland); Denis Parfenov (ActiveCitizen/OKF Ireland); Flora Fleischer (OKF Ireland); Nuala Haughey (TASC/TI Ireland); and Andrew Jackson (An Taisce)

**CS Participants’ role**: The Civil Society representatives confirmed that their group will be the group that meets with DPER for the duration of the work on the draft Action Plan for OGP. There is a wider Forum group with whom the group will meet regularly, report on the work and share materials.

**Timelines**: The original intent to have draft Plan by end of March was extended to facilitate other countries intending to have plans ready at the same time as Ireland. However, the Minister wishes to launch the Plan at the May 8/9th conference. The means that the draft Plan must go to Government Departments by April 10th to facilitate Cabinet approval by end of April.

The need for wide public consultation was raised by CS representatives. How can this be factored into the timeline? CS reps stressed that the principle of public consultation (wider than was possible in the original CS consultation and focused on the specifics of the draft Plan) is important. A ‘blue skies’ early consultation needs to be followed by a consultation on draft proposals, in a timely way so that the public can influence the Plan. There could be a legal problem under the terms of the Aarhaus Convention if this step is missed.

**The Working Methods:** We agreed that the memo from Nat O’Connor (in [this email](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/open-data-ireland/x3rsP2DwWq0) to DPER on November 22nd 2013) and the follow up  [memo from Flora Fleischer dated January 22nd 2014](http://www.scribd.com/doc/202958680/22-1-2014-Letter-from-the-Open-Data-Community-to-DPER-with-concrete-next-steps-to-co-create-Ireland-s-1st-OGP-Action-Plan) outlining an overall approach to the work is a good basis and a follow up .

A high level narrative and set of principles will be needed to set the tone and focus of the OG direction of travel into the future.

DPER has prepared an [overview document](https://drive.google.com/a/online.ie/?usp=gmail#folders/0B5UpNv1ZWNoDWWhKQTJqTjBNb0k) on the CS proposals and is circulating that at today’s meeting. Their view is that the CS proposals need to be prioritised in terms of ‘fit’ for the 2 year plan – in terms of criteria such as feasibility, impact, SMART targets. UK and Croatian plans were also  circulated as well as a style guide for action plans from the OG website and a summary of other submissions. These documents will be provided electronically for circulation among wider CS participants. [They are all available here](https://drive.google.com/a/online.ie/?usp=gmail#folders/0B5UpNv1ZWNoDWWhKQTJqTjBNb0k).

DPER would like to get feedback at the next meeting about CS response to the DPER feedback on the proposals from the CS Consultation, and our views about refining the proposals; they would also like to discuss and agree the key themes for the Plan; these might be the 4 themes under which proposals were submitted, but need not be tied to these. Government will take a lead in putting forward its proposals; Open Data is a core theme for the Minister, but not to the exclusion of other OGP objectives. DPER will come back with a draft template for the Action Plan. DPER also undertook to come back with a draft template for the Action Plan at the next meeting of the joint working group.

On-going open communication with wider CS, with a strong online dimension, will be a feature of the way CS Joint Working Group members will be working over the coming weeks.

An Implementation Plan, and monitoring arrangements will also be needed as part of the OGP ‘package’.

**Administrative arrangements** TASC will be the budget holder for the administrative resource being funded by DPER; The CS group will discuss the management of the OGP website (<http://www.ogpireland.ie/>); Action points from each meeting will be agreed jointly by the Joint Working Group before being circulated more widely. Weekly meetings will be held from now to point where draft plan is ready.

**May Conference:**Its purpose is awareness raising, sharing peer learning, and stimulating business opportunities/interest and to promote a constructive, positive and forward looking discussion on what has been happening around transparency and accountability in Ireland and look at what the next phase of reforms will look like. It will be held in Dublin Castle conference centre. DPER will set up a planning committee and seek CS input in relation to conference themes, planning and awareness raising.