**OGP Joint Working Group Meeting**

**DRAFT Summary Meeting Notes**

**March 6th, 2014**

**Civil Society Members Present:** Nuala Haughey(TASC, Transparency Ireland International), Anne Colgan (Management Consulting), Antoin Ò Lachtnain (Digital Rights Ireland), Denis Parfenov (Active Citizen and Open Knowledge Foundation Ireland), Angela Long (Journalist), Flora Fleischer (Open Knowledge Foundation Ireland), Ivan Cooper (The Wheel)

**Apologies:** Andrew Jackson (An Taisce)

**Civil Service Members Present:** Conor McCann(PER), Donal Enright (Dept of Environment, Community and Local Government), Evelyn O’Connor(PER), William Beausang (PER), Claire Martinez(PER)

**Administrator:** Claire O’Keeffe

**Administrator:** The new administrator, Claire O’Keeffe was introduced to DEPR and her agreed terms of reference were outlined.

**Deadlines:** It was stated by DPER that a draft plan will need to be signed off by the government by the end of April. The intention is to present a draft NAP at the OGP European Regional conference on 8/9 May. The final deadline for submission of the NAP is June 15th as recommended by the OGP Support Unit.

This document was distributed by DEPR to CS: *Working Group report on Citizen Engagement with Local Government*. The online publication can be found here: <http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/Community/CommunityVoluntarySupports/FileDownLoad,36779,en.pdf>

**Discussion on DPER Draft Table of Response to Civil Society’s 62 Action Plan Proposals**

* DEPR acknowledged that CSForum has not discussed the document in any great detail.
* DPER gave their reasoning behind the Red, Amber, Green colour coding of the document, which collated responses to the 62 Action Plan proposals from citizens/civil society. They said the colours aimed to identify areas where there is potential for migrating Civil Society’s proposals into action plan proposals.
* Civil society members sought further clarity, and DPER explained that Green represents what the government is doing, what it wants to do and it is policy to do. Amber is where there is potential to develop engagement and improvement. How to implement the amber points is the question. Reds are mostly linked with constitutional change and can’t be tackled in the near future.
* Civil Society members highlighted the apparent mismatch in some cases between the colour codes in the document and the accompanying narrative.
* There was some discussion of how to turn some red Citizen Participation proposals into green through creative thinking.
* Civil society members highlighted several other specific areas, for example in relation to the environmental issues (2.20) as these were so tightly connected to the citizen participation issue.
* Civil society members pointed out factual errors in the document. It was agreed that civil society members would review the document for further factual errors.
* Civil society members said that point 3.01, relating to charging for data, is amber and shouldn’t be. Open data should be cost-free and the government should refer to the definitions of open data to this end. DEPR said this issue would be reviewed.
* Civil society members stressed the need to include in the NAP a framework for next steps for oversight of the implementation of NAP proposals. The terms of reference need to be agreed.
* Civil society members said there is nothing in the document that denotes an action point. There are no specifics and there should be an extra coloured box to show the action points. It should be clearly identified what DPER sees in the NAP. DPER agreed. It said there would be 10-12 actions in the NAP.
* As part of DPER’s planning for the European Regional Conference in May, DEPR gave a progress report on ideas discussed.

**Action Points**

* DPER will present another version of the document before next Tuesday’s Civil Society Forum meeting (March 11).
* It will show the items that DPER considers could be included in the NAP.
* It will reference the themes already identified in the NAP Outline document which has already been circulated by DPER.
* Members of Civil Society will send questions for DPER to Claire O’Keeffe through this Google Doc: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NK-HyjzHfkzM6CA3hPyfuzFVXGOtikxcbvWs-Yl4MfU/edit>, and she will present them to DPER before each upcoming Joint Working Group Meeting every week.
* DPER has agreed to seek proposals from civil society for the conference, and will put out a call via its website in the coming week.

**The next Joint Working Group Meeting:** Thursday, March 13th at 11.30a.m.– 1p.m. in DPER’s offices.