**OPEN FISCAL DATA PACKAGE ADVISORY GROUP**

21 September 2016

**Virtual Meeting Notes**

The meeting was attended by Eduardo Andrés Estrada and Denisse Wolfenzon (World Bank), Duncan Dewhurst (Open Data Services), Claire Schouten (IBP) Diana Krebs and Victoria Vlad (Open Knowledge International), Juan Pablo Guerrero and Tania Sánchez (GIFT).

The meeting agenda covered the following points:

* Introduction of the new members of the OKI team working on the OFDP
* General updates
* The document/ template for use with other 3 pilots, and next steps
* Package (pilot) that was formally published and launched by the Mexican Ministry of Finance

**New members of the OKI team working on the OFDP**

The new members of Open Knowledge International in charge of the OFDP are Paul Walsh ([paul.walsh@okfn.org](mailto:paul.walsh@okfn.org)), Diana Krebs (diana.krebs@okfn.org), directly leading the project, and Victoria Vlad (Victoria.vlad@okfn).

**General updates**

Juan Pablo Guerrero highlighted that the pilot in Mexico has been extraordinary because it is the first one and the platform was launched before the pilot was finished. GIFT is always open to revise the contract if necessary, given the possible need to cover work that was not initially envisioned. The experience was shared in detail during a recent GIFT workshop in Jakarta before MoF representatives from Paraguay, Uruguay, Indonesia and Vietnam which reacted with enthusiasm.

The experience in Mexico, as per Lorena Rivero, has raised the issue of the autonomy to maintain the OFDP; continuous support after launching should not happen in subsequent pilots. Currently, the Mexico team is not autonomous yet and that is why there has been need for subsequent technical support. The issue of a category being a filter is not solved and errors are still found in the platform.

Therefore, Mexico can only provide conditional endorsement, although it has been launched already. Mexico can only fully endorse once problems have been solved and their team can fully use and update the tool. According to the Mexico team, it is not a data base issue, but rather a package programming issue (something Loic with the OKI team has acknowledged).

Diana Krebs will follow up on these questions with her technical team. Further, she agrees, the Mexico pilot is not finished yet and, therefore, it is not ready to be piloted by other countries. Lorena Rivero stressed that while in the upcoming open data conference in Madrid, the Mexico Ministry of Finance can refer to the package, but will be clear that Mexico will not give the full endorsement until technical problems and errors are taken care of and full autonomy is granted to their TI team.

**The document/ template for use with other 3 pilots, and next steps**

The "Introduction for OpenSpending pilots" documents (attached) offers an overview of the Open Fiscal Data Package and OpenSpending. It describes the steps in engaging with the pilot partners, including "Selecting and preparing the data" and "Uploading and analyzing data." The document outlines the proposed four work phases with the pilot partners:

1. Demand phase - this first phase’s goal is to help the pilot partner and OpenSpending team getting to know each other and to draft a project plan.

2. Plan phase - OpenSpending team planning overall project management plan activities.

3. Build & Run phase - OpenSpending team is executing the project plan with regards to agreed scope.

4. Post-pilot project launch phase - Reviewing and evaluating pilot project process.

**The package (pilot) that was formally published and launched by the Mexican Ministry of Finance**

Mexico's Open Fiscal Data Package is available at <http://www.transparenciapresupuestaria.gob.mx/es/PTP/datos_presupuestarios_abiertos>

The data package, embedded on Ministry of Finance’s web page, enables users to analyze the 2008-2016 budget, to create visualizations on all or selected spending sectors and share their personalized visualizations. All data is available for download in open format, while the API allows users to create their own apps based on this data.

A blog post presenting the collaboration <http://blog.okfn.org/2016/09/09/openspending-collaborates-with-mexicos-ministry-of-finance-to-standardise-and-visualise-government-budget-data/>

Regarding the API question (IBP question) - the data is stored in OpenSpending and we provide an API for accessing it. The Mexican website is making use of that API to show up-to-date data in relevant contexts. There’s good documentation of the API in our docs: <http://docs.openspending.org/en/latest/developers/api/>.

In regards to the Data Mine, it is based on a platform called re:dash ([redash.io](http://redash.io/)). It is currently in preview mode. They still do not have any schedule for the next steps (but it will probably be next year).

In looking forward to the next steps, Juan Pablo mentioned that in the Jakarta workshop, partners from Indonesia, Paraguay and Uruguay were able to test and pilot the tool using their own data; even the South African CSO representative managed to get data from the government to test the tool. GIFT will follow up with these countries, and probably Moldova, which has previously expressed interest.

Eduardo Estrada suggested in the case of Paraguay to coordinate efforts between the ministries of finance and planning.

Juan Pablo Guerrero remarked that the goal is to have four countries pilot the tool, and two of them formally publish their fiscal data using the tool, by the end of 2016.

Finally, Duncan Dewhurst from Open Data Services shared that they are working to upgrade the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) and are considering how the budget element of OCDS links out to other standards for open data on budgets. He welcomed participants’ input, suggestions and feedback on their proposed changes, which can be provided through the public Github here: [https://github.com/open-contracting/standard/issues/378.](https://github.com/open-contracting/standard/issues/378)