

New way of thinking: open government, innovation and achieving the SDGs

Workshop on Fostering Open Government in the Arab Region
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The SDGs and open government



The SGDs and open government

Citizen Engagement

- School Governing Bodies, South Africa

Collaboration

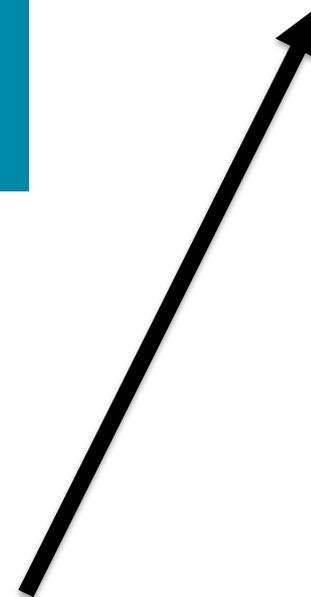
- Open cooperation
- Open science and technology policymaking, United Kingdom

Participation

- Sharing of ideas and comments
- Online citizen polling

Openness

- Open data
- Banana farms in Uganda



Innovation in the Public Sector

Innovation is

- New way of achieving a result and/or performing work
- It can be completely new, a change in to a current system, or something that already exists elsewhere implemented for the first time.
- Outcome can be a product, service, policy and programme, or a process.
- It can have as its focus new or adapted technologies, or technology for supporting other forms of public sector innovation.
- Objective is to enhance the social welfare and economic growth of a country for a better sustainable future.

Innovation Processes

- Bottom-up innovation
- Collaborative innovation
- Disruptive innovation
- Frugal innovation
- Incremental innovation
- Local innovation
- Open innovation

- Each of these innovation types have the potential to
 - Enhance open government initiatives
 - Help to achieve the SDGs

Project Isizwe

- In collaboration with the City of Tshwane and private mobile operators
- It provides free wi-fi access to citizens in public spaces
- Creating hotspots close to communities with 500 MB, daily free to users
- Focusing on low-income regions and communities
- Providing educational purposes, economic development and social inclusion.
- Began with City of Tshwane, but has now expanded to other places in Gauteng Province as well as other provinces.

Fostering innovation

- Two questions:
 - How to foster innovation in the public sector?
 - Which option the best for innovation ideas?
- Two components were created
 - IDEA Lifecycle
 - A tool for the identification of preferred processes

Fostering innovation: IDEA Lifecycle

- Methodology for the developing of innovations
 - Produce products and services for society
 - Diverse needs that dynamically evolves over time
- Lifecycle has four main phases
- Each phase has a set of activities
- Circular: numerous iterations
- Activities can overlap others can be bypassed
- Adaptable to the needs of the organization

Fostering innovation: IDEA Lifecycle

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graph TD; A[Ideation Phase] --> B[Deliberation Phase]; B --> C[Evolution Phase]; C --> D[Assimilation Phase]; D --> A;
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Ideation Phase:

- Idea generation
- Internal stakeholders
- Based on needs

Assimilation Phase:

- Monitoring impact and adoption of innovations
- Value and sustainability of innovations

Deliberation Phase:

- Discussions with external stakeholders
- Citizens, businesses, civil society, public sectors

Evolution Phase:

- Implementation of proposals
- Monitoring implementation

Fostering innovation: Identification of preferred processes

- Tool that asks users to rate items attached to four questions
- The questions are based on the rationale, success factors, risk factors and envisioned outcome of each process
 - Which rationale is important?
 - What may be difficult to achieve?
 - What negative effects could happen?
 - What is important to achieve?
- Each element is rated and in the end the rating for each processes is tallied.
- The outcome is a list of processes ordered from the best fit to least best fit.

Challenges in Public Sector Innovation

- Important to consider the challenges, while planning innovations
- Identification and possible course of actions

Some challenges identified are:

- Where, when, by whom, with whom and why
- Recognizing when to innovate and establishing indicators
- Para-procedurality – adapting to deal with everyday cases
- Identifying the ideal stakeholders
- Cost and payoffs of innovation procedures
- Identifying what is an important innovation
- Working with various stakeholders
- Monitoring innovations

Thank you

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