

Open Government Data: From Transparency to Social Participation

TREO Talk Paper

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Abstract

Increasingly the governments churn out enormous quantities of data and information, the modern information and communication technologies enable new opportunities for the citizens to manipulate, use, reuse and share the data in innovative ways. Even though important role and the potential benefits Open Government Data (OGD) can generate for the society, there are major challenges and barriers to be overcome in order to promote an ecosystem of OGD with effective social participation. The OGD is based on open government, and follows the principles: collaboration, transparency and participation.

In general, the ODG practices of several countries are limited to simply releasing volumes of data in a portal without information on why and how they are collected, organized and can be used leaves citizens with herculean tasks to determine their relevance and reliability. The ODG ecosystem of the Brazilian federal government is an example of this scenario, which has portals with the objective of speeding up information release efforts and only making the data accessible. Expected that open and transparent governments are more accountable to their population and less corrupt.

The current direction of scientific research indicates that the OGD to seek advances in: government transparency, increased social participation, more efficient sustainable cities with social participation in management and governance. So studies point out that only access to data is not enough it is necessary, modern platforms that allow effective social participation in a collaborative structure and empowering society and civil servants to develop a new ecosystem for OGD.

Thus there are two major streams of OGD studies that address these gaps, a research aspect on the publication, use and reuse of open data for innovation purposes, and another that establishes research focused on effective social participation in the OGD ecosystem the publication, it is noted that efforts are needed to integrate these two streams.

In this proposal, we will seek to present discussions and solutions on how these two great streams can be developed together addressing transparency for innovation goals, and addressing issues of social participation from the development of new policies for OGD and portals. Thus, we will explain the context and address opportunities, challenges and suggestions.