

OPEN DATA 500 GLOBAL NETWORK

The Open Data 500 Global Network is an international network of organizations that seeks to study the use and economic impact of open government data. Coordinated by The GovLab, an action research institute at New York University, the OD500 Global Network enables participating organizations to analyze how open government data is being used in their country in a manner that is both globally comparative and domestically specific.



WHAT'S "OPEN DATA" ACCORDING TO THE OPEN DATA 500 GLOBAL NETWORK?

The GovLab synthesized nine of the most popular definitions of open data to come up with the following definition: "Open data is publicly available data that can be universally and readily accessed, used, and redistributed free of charge. Open data is released in ways that protects private, personal or proprietary information. It is structured for usability and computability."

The GovLab's definition is inclusive of open data from an array of sources (e.g. the private sector, research organizations and public sector agencies, among other entities). In the context of the Open Data 500 Global Network, our research specifically studies the use of open government data.

WHAT IS THE OPEN DATA 500 STUDY?

The Open Data 500 is a study of companies using open government data as a key resource for business development. Initiated in the U.S., but now conducted in a variety of countries such as Mexico, Australia, Italy and Korea, the study is the first of its kind in each country to map the ecosystem of open data users. It intends to identify companies using open data, visualize the relationships between companies and open government datasets and build the foundation to conduct other sector-by-sector analyses.



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WHAT ARE GOALS OF THE OPEN DATA 500 STUDY?

The study has several specific goals:

- ▶ Provide a basis for assessing the economic value of open government data
- ▶ Encourage the development of new open data companies
- ▶ Foster a dialogue between government and business on how open government data can be made more useful

WHAT IS THE METHODOLOGY OF THE OPEN DATA 500 STUDY?

GovLab provides the Open Data 500 Global Network members with a validated survey methodology that operates on an open-ended timeline. Companies may fill out the survey at any time to be included within the study. The survey contains both structured and unstructured information. It collects anything from basic company information such as mission and work to the sources of open data companies use and feedback on their experience using government open data. Each Open Data 500 Global Network member will customize certain portions of the survey to ensure the questionnaire achieves the appropriate cultural tone and needs of the local ecosystem.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE OPEN DATA 500 GLOBAL NETWORK?

The OD500 Global Network starts from the assumption that only by mapping the use of open data within and across countries can new approaches for understanding the economic and social impact of open government data can be generated.

Specific benefits include:

- ▶ Leveraging an existing methodology and infrastructure to develop and implement a survey that is globally comparative
- ▶ Joining an international network of open data researchers, government officials and advocates to publicize and share results, updates and reports
- ▶ Promoting the Open Data 500 website as a platform for hosting individual countries open data study reports, use cases and additional studies
- ▶ Learning about open data policies and implementation challenges, outreach activities, and stakeholder events in different countries
- ▶ Use of OD500 logo and credential in internal reporting

Additionally, partner countries develop use cases and reports that describe the current state of play. Governments and advocacy agencies are able to get an accurate picture of how datasets are being used, what types of data sources are most sought after, the size of company and type of type of industries using open data, as well as other pertinent information relevant to the local ecosystem. Quantitative results along with anecdotal evidence from roundtable events and case study research strengthen policy advocacy at all levels of governance (local, regional and federal) and reinforce policy mandates around open data.

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