Volunteering Data Standards Working Group 3
10 December 2025

Documents:

- Slide Deck: 🟨 Volunteering SWG 3 - 10/12
- Whiteboard: [Miro board](#) (This board is now open for comments only)
- Terms of Reference:
  📄 #SHARED Developing an Open Data Infrastructure for Volunteering and Social Ac…

Agenda

1. [Welcome & Project Overview](#)
2. [Hackathon](#)
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Attendee profile

The working group was attended by 25 people, including 3 members of the ODI project team (Andrew, Mathieu and Camilla).

10 people provided introductory information:

- 4 indicated holding executive roles
- 3 indicated holding volunteering management roles at VIOs
- 3 indicated holding data roles
- 1 indicated themselves as systems vendors

There was representation from a range of organisation types including:

- Local and national volunteering involving and infrastructure organisations
- Local and central government
- System vendors and advisory firms

Welcome and Project Overview

Andrew Newman presented an overview of the project and the role of the standards working group.

Hackathon

Andrew Newman walked the working group through the hackathon which ODI hosted on ¾ December. Andrew outlined who had attended the event and the challenges that had been addressed. Andrew described the projects that had been delivered, including the winning project The intelligent opportunity matchmaker.

Matthieu Bosquet and Camilla Rodrigues highlighted the high levels of engagement at the hackathon and value of networking, emphasising the importance of bringing subject matter experts together for successful standardisation efforts.

Action ODI: to share link to article summarising event once published.
15/12/25: The event report can be found on the ODI website.

Data Model Update

Matthieu Bosquet provided an update on the development of the data model.

Licensing details for model have been agreed with DCMS enabling the publication of all relevant material in the open. This is good news for the standard's visibility and allows people to learn about the standard and contribute their knowledge.

Data model development has continued Matthieu noted that version two introduced an "activity session" to allow one activity to occur across multiple times and places.

Proposed updates from the hackathon include beginning efforts to create taxonomies for accessibility/inclusion and crisis response/spontaneous volunteering. The accessibility taxonomy includes categories for physical and digital accessibility, while the crisis response effort is divided into skills and requirements related to emergency response.

Matthieu demonstrated the public website (model.volunteeringdata.io), which explains the data model, standardisation process, and provides ways to contribute.

Action ODI: to add a page for the Working Group
Action ALL: to contribute issues and ideas to the online discussion forums

Discussions

A working group member raised concerns about the rapid pace of standards development so far and asked how the sector can best support the next stages of development. Discussions emphasised that:

- Moving at pace is good, but not at the cost of quality.
- That the group's subject matter expertise is crucial for refining the standard and API.
- Serious standardisation takes time and we anticipate transitioning from establishing a base to refining details based on practical use cases.
- The group were reminded that this is an open group anyone can join via the [ODI webform](#).

A member set out the challenge of engaging diverse voices, such as volunteers or very small organizations with limited capacity, suggesting that grants might be helpful for participation.

- The ODI confirmed that small grants were offered for hackathon attendees and there may be opportunities to take a similar approach for future engagement (subject to funding availability).

A member emphasised the need to test whether the developments benefit the public by helping them find volunteering opportunities more easily. There was broad agreement and this may be a subject for the working group to consider in the future.

Action ODI: To note future agenda items on considering the public benefit of volunteering data standards.

A member stated they had issues using tools like GitHub and Miro. ODI would be happy to host 1:1 or small group discussions to discuss issues or provide support.

Action All: Contact ODI if support is needed

Open Data Part 2

Andrew outlined open data for attendees not at prior meetings and introduced the attracting and restricting forces identified in the prior workshop which have been reviewed, de-duplicated and grouped into commercial, reputational, regulatory and ethical risk areas (as outlined in ODI's guidance on data sharing risk assessment).

Andrew set out that the next objective was to explore how to address the restraining forces by building safeguards to build trust and confidence.

The working group were then invited to suggest :

- Counter-arguments that could build trust and confidence
- Conditions that must be true for this risk to be acceptable
- Mitigations to enable data to be made open

A concern that the lack of technological expertise within the sector could lead to concerns around data sharing and open data was raised in the meeting chat.

Action ODI: To review workshop input and develop an advisory paper on open volunteering data.

Next Steps

- Andrew outlined that this working group meeting falls into the final alpha sprint.
- An end of alpha report is being prepared for DCMS with the objective of starting beta real world pilots in January.
- Andrew closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and support and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.