

Corruption Data Expedition

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Introduction

[CIVICUS](#), [Open Knowledge Foundation's School of Data](#), and [the engine room](#) are hosting a data expedition on citizen-generated corruption data. During the one-day event, we will be comparing different types of data sets across a variety of thematic and geographic areas to better understand how outputs of disparate data-driven initiatives can be coordinated and leveraged for civil society advocacy. Our objective is to engage a range of anti-corruption campaigners with a desire to strengthen their skills for using nationally and locally generated data to develop effective tools and a community of practice that allow citizens and civil society organisations to monitor performance on post-2015 development goals and hold governments to account for their commitments.

Background & Rationale

CIVICUS is the only global network of civil society organisations and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world, and has over 1000 members in more than 120 countries. CIVICUS – working with its members and partners around the world – is excited to offer this workshop through an ambitious project, *Promoting People-Powered Accountability Post-2015 and Beyond*. In conjunction with the project, the engine room is supporting CIVICUS to uncover the potential and limits of citizen monitoring data to promote accountability at the national and international level.

During the first quarter of 2014, CIVICUS will be convening a series of workshops and consultations to better understand the significant potential of technological advances in real-time reporting, citizen monitoring mechanisms, and data curation to promote people-powered accountability. The data expedition is a critical exercise in this endeavour because good governance and anti-corruption are likely to be important goals in the post-2015 development agenda, and several citizen-generated monitoring mechanisms on this issue already exist.

Promoting People-Powered Accountability Post-2015 and Beyond

The UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda called for the twin “data revolution” and “transparency revolution” to encourage citizen-driven accountability. We want to enable citizens and civil society across the world to harness the power of crowd-sourcing, real-time reporting and fast-evolving new tools to put people at the heart of these new revolutions. This is what we mean by *Promoting People-Powered Accountability Post-2015 and Beyond*.

The potential for meaningful connection between people and governments through technological advances in citizen reporting, engagement and monitoring is one of the most important paradigm shifts of the early 21st century. Techniques for aggregating, curating and presenting multi-sourced data present a range of opportunities to develop citizen monitoring mechanisms. These twin trends of facilitated citizen voice and international data curation hold significant promise for improving development accountability and performance, as citizen-generated data can provide a critical counterpoint to official monitoring data.

A recent proliferation of projects leveraging technology for people-powered accountability has been driven by ad hoc responses to highly contextual and wildly dissimilar factors. Spanning a vast array of issue areas and political contexts, they produce a largely incompatible mix of datasets, which poses significant challenges to comparing citizen-generated data from different initiatives. Further, problems of scale and coverage must be addressed and harmonized data increased in order for such mechanisms to provide rigorous and comparable metrics for monitoring international development goals.

Leveraging opportunities and addressing these shortcomings requires new thinking to promote enhanced monitoring mechanisms for comparing and aggregating citizen monitoring data on the implementation of the post-2015 goals. As a first step, CIVICUS will explore the potential for facilitating the uptake of citizen monitoring efforts by civil society, and harmonizing citizen-generated data streams to facilitate a stronger evidence base at the national level and across country contexts. By directly addressing the issues of *comparability* and *coverage*, CIVICUS aims to better understand the potential and limitations of technology, while also supporting the efforts of national partners to leverage these tools in *campaigning* for citizen engagement and accountability.

The methodologies and interfaces that will underpin any “data revolution” have great potential to build a more people-centred and planet-sensitive development agenda. In this way, new data-driven vehicles of monitoring will standardise, curate, and present citizen-generated reporting from across the globe to help unleash the democratizing potential of information and promote people-powered accountability.

Corruption Data Expedition

To address the question of comparability, CIVICUS, Open Knowledge Foundation’s School of Data and the engine room are convening a data expedition to explore the limits and potential of harmonizing and/or comparing data sets on corruption that have been produced by citizens and civil society in dramatically different contexts and for different objectives. Anti-corruption data is arguably the most mature domain of civil society produced data on governance and should provide a trial area rich with both dissimilar data sets, and methodological knowledge.

Where and When:

The workshop will last one day, from 9:30am until 4:30pm London time. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

What is a “Data Expedition”?:

Data expeditions are short gatherings where a group of people with different backgrounds tackle a data related problem. In contrast to Datathons and Hackathons, data expeditions do not focus on the outcome. The entire focus is on the process of understanding the data better and learning from peers. Based on a simple exercise dressed as a quest (think roleplaying games) the participants are given a data task and have to manage and conduct a small data project in the short time they have. Most of the time, data expeditions are the beginning of more in-depth data projects and ventures.

What we will do:

We will be wrangling, scraping and analysing datasets from corruption perception surveys like Transparency International’s [Global Corruption Barometer](#), online citizen reporting platforms like [I Paid a Bribe](#), [Mamdawrinch](#), as well as various Ushahidi platforms. We will be focusing on 3-4 countries to find **corruption stories and campaign ideas** that aggregating these datasets can provide. In addition to finding what is there, we also want to **map the gaps**: look for crucial corruption information that is missing in some or all countries.

Who:

The workshop will gather anti-corruption and transparency campaigners based in London for a full day of wrangling with data to find stories and resources for advocacy. We’re looking for people who want to strengthen their data skills and push the boundaries of what data can do for in-country accountability.

For an updated list of registered participants, visit: http://bit.ly/DataExpedition_PARTICIPANTS.

Outputs:

Participants will leave the expedition with practical experience in accessing, managing and finding stories in data. We’ll be introducing tools for scraping and data management as appropriate.

Outputs from the expedition might include concrete campaigning and program ideas. We’ll also be aiming to identify concrete challenges for comparing data sets that will feed into a technical workshop on the following day, which will pursue harmonization schema and strategies for pursuing corruption data standards.