High Level Open Data Conference
ReSPA - DSP

14 June 2017, Brussels

Concept Paper and Agenda
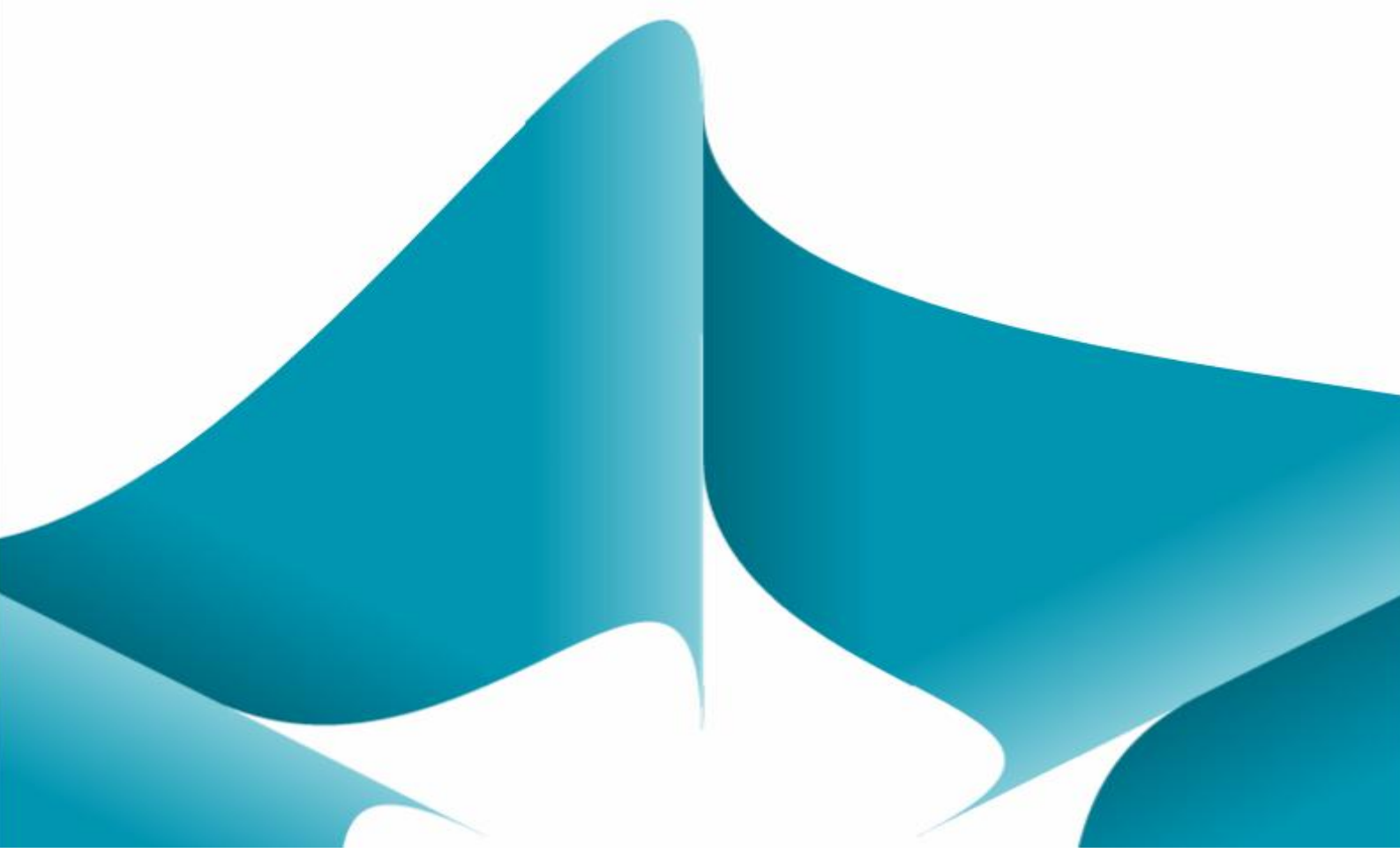
Background

The Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) is the inter-governmental organization for enhancing regional cooperation, promoting shared learning and supporting the development of public administration in the Western Balkans. ReSPA Members are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, while representatives of Kosovo*1 are participating in ReSPA activities. ReSPA's purpose is to support governments in the region develop better public administration, public services and overall governance systems for their citizens and businesses, and prepare them for membership in the European Union (EU). Since its inception, ReSPA has contributed to the development of human resources and administrative capacities through training programmes and innovative cooperation mechanisms such as the exchange of good practices, peer reviews and development of know-how.

Based on recommendations from the regional comparative study on e-Government and Open Data, and following the conclusions from the ReSPA eGovernment working group meetings, it was decided to organize the High-Level Conference devoted to Open Data in EUSDR. The event will be closely organized with Danube Strategy Point. The event is also supported by the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Regional Hub in Istanbul), Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Electronic South-East Initiative – eSEE, Open Contracting Partnership, and relevant think tanks.

The Conference will have social media coverage, and conference conclusions will be disseminated and presented to relevant stakeholders in the EU, in Danube region and in the Western Balkans. More importantly, the conference conclusions, supported by political actors, could serve as a basis for further development of policies, initiatives and projects in the Danube region and beyond.

The Conference will bring together approximately 70 participants, ministers and high-level representatives of the countries of the Danube region and Western Balkans, high level representatives from the European Commission, government officials from the Western Balkans, representatives of relevant international organisations, representatives of chambers of commerce, business associations and relevant civil society organisations.

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[1] This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Advisory opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence

Objectives

High Level Open Data Conference will facilitate the exchange of views on the importance of Open Government, Open Data and Open Government Partnership in the governance reform process, and institutional capacity building, including its interconnection and relation with eDemocracy and eParticipation. The discussion will contribute to EC strategy of transitioning to Digital Society using Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data and how Open Government and Open Data can open doors for Public Private and Public Civil Partnership. Conclusions and recommendations from the Conference shall verify and strengthen political ownership and support institutional capacity building in the region, as well as present an important contribution to further development of the policy field and stimulate facilitation and preparation of particular transnational cooperation and projects.

ReSPA beneficiaries are different in many ways, but the Western Balkan region is strongly interlinked, with potential for further integration and growth. In regard to development related to the digital society, heterogeneity is *de facto* characteristic of the data infrastructures in the Western Balkans. Quite similar to the Western Balkan region, heterogeneity is *de facto* characteristic of the data infrastructures in all countries included in the Danube Region. In order to address common challenges together, EC and Danube Region countries jointly developed macro-regional strategy adopted by the EC in December 2010, and endorsed by the European Council in 2011, called EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). EUSDR, quite similar to what ReSPA is seeking in regard to PAR in the WB region, seeks to create synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Danube Region.

Taking into account heterogeneity of the data infrastructures on the level of Danube Region, the Joint Research Centre of the EC (JRC) and Danube Region stakeholders have established the Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure (DRDSI), which is an open data infrastructure developed to support the EUSDR. In line with the importance of Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data to ReSPA supported PAR related efforts in Western Balkans, ReSPA its currently working on multiple assignments related to eParticipation, PPP/PCP[2], Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data.

Since some of the most important principles underlying the EU include cross-border cooperation and regional integration, and since EC is pursuing strategy of transitioning to Digital Society using Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data, ReSPA and EUSDR will make joint effort to cooperate on the common topic of Open Data.

High Level Open Data Conference will outline many potential benefits of Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data as well as showcase developments in Western Balkans and Danube region. The Conference will analyse barriers and recommended

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[2] PPP – Public Private Partnership; PCP – Public Civil Partnership

concrete measures that should be taken for Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data introduction, as well as the possibilities for new initiatives such as e.g. Open Data Region. The planned output of the first part of the Conference is the adoption of conclusions by the present ministers and senior decision makers (on issues presented above). Participants in the continuation will jointly try to find answers to a very interesting question - what role and support could regional institutions such as ReSPA and cooperation framework such as EUSDR provide. The Conference will close with a discussion session, where the audience will be given the opportunity to propose additional topics for further investigation.

The representatives of beneficiaries from the respective region should be prepared to use this unique chance to peer with their colleagues from other countries, exchange experience and create future partnerships and possibilities for cooperation.

The representatives of beneficiaries from the respective region should be prepared to investigate how to use Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data to drive good management, help the free flow of data within and between organizations, and aid innovation, transparency and growth thus triggering both public sector modernization and overall improvement of the economy.

Target audience / Participants

The Conference is intended for ministerial-level and high-level participants from respective region, high-level EC representatives, government officials from the EU, Danube Region and Western Balkans, representatives of relevant international organisations, representatives of chambers of commerce, business associations and relevant civil society organisations. General public will be addressed through press conference planed after the Conference.

Date: Wednesday, 14 June 2017

Venue: Stanhope Hotel, Rue du Commerce 9, Brussels

Time	Topic	Speaker / Moderator
9.00 - 9.15	Registration and coffee	
9.15 - 9.55	Welcome and Introduction	Bernard Brunet, DG NEAR, EC Ratka Sekulovic, ReSPA Director Milena Harito, Minister of Innovation and Public Administration of Albania, Chairperson of the ReSPA Board Josip Grubesa, Minister of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Member of ReSPA Board Jean-Francois Junger, Deputy Head of the Public Services Unit, DG CONNECT Moderator: Goran Pastrovic, ReSPA
9.55 - 10.10	Open (Government) Data in Governance	Edwin Lau, Head of the Reform of the Public Sector Division in the OECD Moderator: Stefan Friedrichs
10.10 – 10.25	Importance of Open Government, Open Data and Open Government Partnership	Paul Maassen, Open Government Partnership Moderator: Matija Vilfan
10.25 -10.40	Open Data and eGovernance a motor towards more transparent and efficient governance and cooperation in the region - UNDP experience	Shelley Inglis, Team leader for governance and peace-building, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub Moderator: Matija Vilfan
10.40 – 10.55	Discussion	Moderators: Matija Vilfan and Stefan Friedrichs
10.55 - 11.15	**Coffee break**	
11.15 - 12.15	Panel Discussion: Open Government, Open Government Data and Open Data Region	**Panellists**: Lejla Sadiku, UNDP Maja Handjiska-Trendafilova, RCC Juan Navas-Sabater, World Bank Ana Brandusescu, World Wide Web Foundation Aram Khaghaghordyan, DIGIWHIST – the Digital Whistleblower Lorenc Bako, ReSPA eGovernment working group representative Moderators: Stefan Friedrichs and Goran Pastrovic
12.15 - 12.35	Discussion and adoption of the conclusions	Moderators: Stefan Friedrichs and Goran Pastrovic
12.35 - 12.50	Hand in Hand – Open (Government) Data and eParticipation	Heleen Vollers, Capgemini Moderator: Stefan Friedrichs

Time	Topic	Speaker / Moderator
12.50 - 13.00	Discussion	Moderator: Stefan Friedrichs
13.00 – 14.00	**Lunch break**	
14.00 - 14.15	How Open (Government) Data can open doors for PPP/PCP	Karolis Granickas, Senior Programme Manager, Open Contracting Partnership Moderator: Stefan Friedrichs
14.15 -14.30	Transition to Digital Society with Open (Government) Data	Dennis Anderson, St. Francis College, New York City Moderator: Stefan Friedrichs
14.30 - 14.45	Discussion	Moderator: Stefan Friedrichs
14.45 - 15.20	Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World	Vanja Ivosevic, RCC Jean Dusart - Joint Research Centre Moderators: Zorana Gajic and Dusko Glodic, ReSPA
15.20 - 15.30	Discussion	Moderators: Zorana Gajic, ReSPA and Stefan Friedrichs
15.30 - 15.45	Final conclusions and closing of the event	Goran Pastrovic and Ratka Sekulovic, ReSPA Director
15.45	End of the Open Data Conference	

ReSPA

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ReSPA Activities are
Financed by the EU