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Submission

Application

Participant: France Team

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS:

As you consider which initiative to put forward for the Open Government Awards, please consider the following questions:

(1)
Does the initiative seek to improve a public policy or service?

● Yes ○ No

(2) If yes, does the initiative seek to improve the ability of citizens to provide feedback and/or to make decisions in the design or implementation of a policy or service? For examples of initiatives, see: http://www.opengovguide.com/topics/citizen-engagement

● Yes ○ No

If you have answered "Yes" to BOTH of these questions, please proceed with your application.

A. THE TEAM

The following information is required to capture a basic understanding of those responsible for your initiative and any partnerships that have helped you to meet your goals.

INITIATIVE NAME (required)

Provide the name of the initiative that your team is submitting for consideration by the judges of the 2014 Open Government Awards (under the inaugural theme, Citizen Engagement). If the initiative is operating under one or more alternate name(s), provide the name that is most commonly recognized.

Data.gouv.fr, the social and collaborative open data

THE NOMINATION (required)

Begin by describing how this initiative was selected. For example, mention any nomination or consultation process held with civil society partners or others when selecting the initiative. Please offer your explanation of this process in 200 words or less.

The project submitted is presented by **Etalab**, the French Prime Minister taskforce for Open Data and Open Government. Etalab is a team of 10 people, acting like a startup within the French government, utilizing open data and open gov to modernize the state itself.

In 2013, two years after the first portal was launched, we decided to totally reshape the national open data portal data.gouv.fr.

We spent 9 months co-designing it with the civil society. The new site was launched last December by the Prime Minister himself, in presence of many of the contributors who had been involved.

These contributors were consulted on the decision to apply for OGP Awards. Since this platform was the fruit of our joint action for one year, proposal to submit it to the Awards was unanimously supported. Partners were also willing to seize this contest as an opportunity for other OGP member countries to learn about this innovation, which is empowering citizens and allowing them to tangibly shape the open data policy of the government.

GOVERNMENT POINT OF CONTACT (required)

Provide the name and title of a single point of contact for the purposes of communicating with your team. The person should be the most senior individual responsible for overseeing the application submission. Provide the phone number(s), email address(es), and physical address of your designated point of contact. You may provide alternate contact information, if it is a direct means for reaching the designated point of contact.

To communicate with the Etalab team, please contact Laure Lucchesi, Deputy Director of Etalab:

Laure Lucchesi,

Etalab

Secrétariat Général pour la Modernisation de l'Action Publique

64, allée de Bercy, 75572 Paris cedex 12

laure.lucchesi@modernisation.gouv.fr

+ 33.6.10.60.20.48

CIVIL SOCIETY POINT OF CONTACT (strongly recommended)

We strongly encourage applicants to submit a joint application from a government agency and a civil society partner. If submitting a joint application, please provide the name and title of a single point of contact at the partner organization. If not, please be sure to focus on the "validation of claims" in Section B (see pg. A-3).

Data.gouv.fr is a community, which includes many partners (see below).

Among them, the **Open Knowledge Foundation France** is an important contributor:
- The open source CKAN platform has been used to build the core version of data.gouv.fr; we shared back the code - enriched with new social features - on github and are currently working with the community to keep developing these platforms.
- OKF Fr also played a major role in the co-design process.
- They are an active user and sourcing partner of data as well as a key contributor in the process of animating the ecosystem.

For more information, please contact **Pierre Chrzanowski,** co-founder and current member of the board of the French local group of the Open Knowledge Foundation.

Pierre Chrzanowski
: Pierre.Chrzanowski@okfn.fr

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS (optional)

If you are partnering with one or more other government agencies, private sector entities, media, or other organizations, please list each partner. In 250 words or less, provide a brief narrative of the partnership, including the roles that each partner assumes in the initiative.

While the previous version was only gathering data released by government alone, the new data.gouv.fr platform embraced a radical shift towards the social web.
It is currently the **first government portal opening up to contributions and datasets released by everyone.**

Anyone can now vote for useful datasets, improve the data shared by public authorities, post its own interpretation, datavizusalisations or applications.
Additionally, the platform also hosts general interest data published by non-profits, universities, associations, journalists…

We succeeded in gathering a community of **more than 330 organizations**, two-thirds from the civil society: beyond central administrations and agencies, the platform convenes data from more than 80 local governments, NGOs such as WWF or the Red Cross, researchers such as the Paris School of Economics, corporations, citizens, collectives such as Regards Citoyens and the OKF (co-producing NosDonnées.fr), OpenStreetMap, as well as data and solutions provided by companies like DataPublica or OpenDataSoft.

The new social portal creates virtuous circles for all stakeholders:
- **Data producers** have more incentive to open their data: they receive feedback and improvements on their data, they can see how their data are used, and are able to engage with innovators making use of these data ;
- **Citizens and data reusers** have a single point of entry to access data from various sources, and can rely on our data provider certification process to identify government-issued data;
- **Technical solutions providers** can be referenced on the platform and thereby increase their visibility and display their know-how.

B. THE INITIATIVE

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is prepared to celebrate a range of successful applicants to the Open Government Awards. This year's theme is "citizen engagement." To qualify for recognition, we need to understand the various elements of success for your initiative and its sustainability over time.

PROBLEM DEFINITION (required)

In 200 words or less, please identify the specific problem your initiative intended to solve. Why was this problem important to solve at a particular time and for the particular context in which you are working?

The first data.gouv.fr portal was launched in 2011 and contained data from all ministries, who had been engaged to open them by several executive orders.

This first platform had laid great foundations for initiating open data, but was showing important **limitations**:
- Feedback loops on how data was used were missing for producers, who were also wondering which data to open in priority;
- There were limited possibilities for users to express needs, nor to alert producers in case of errors or gaps in the files;
- The portal was hosting government data only, while it was clear that other sources could benefit to all and be

usefully linked to government data.

Above all, it had become critical to **find ways to scale the open data policy,** and to make the **government data opening process engaging and self-sustainable in the long term.**

Convinced that open data could have strong **impact on transparency and democracy, economic growth, and efficiency of public action**, we wanted to identify the most demanded and useful data to materialize these ambitions.
To succeed, the open data policy had to **be driven by a fruitful dynamic for all stakeholders, where both producers and reusers would find concrete benefits**

TARGET POPULATION (required)

In 100 words or less, please identify the target population who may benefit from this initiative. Highlight your understanding of the needs or demands of the target population that were addressed by your initiative.

The new data.gouv.fr is **addressed to all citizens:** anyone should be able to find data helping answer its questions and solve concrete problems.

However, non-savvy end-users may not know how to use or understand raw data.
To overcome this challenge and help open data reach all citizens, it has been critical for us
- 1/ to engage in the platform a community of "**power-users**" (such as journalists, datascientists, researchers…) able to analyze data,
- 2/ to include functionalities allowing to attach interpretations and points of views to datasets,

in order to **do the mediation towards a larger audience** and help **anyone make sense of these data.**

INITIATIVE DESIGN (required)

In 350 words or less, describe your initiative's goals and objectives. Focus specifically on how the initiative was designed to meet those objectives. For example, identify stage(s) of the policy/service design or implementation when you solicited citizen participation. What kind of participation did you seek from citizens (e.g., feedback, consultation, joint decision-making, monitoring of activities, etc.)? Explain why this particular approach was best suited to achieve the initiative's goals. How did you encourage citizens to participate? Describe any innovations in the design of the initiative.

Citizen engagement is at the heart of data.gouv.fr, which is entirely coded and designed on this principle. We combined a series of radical innovations at all steps of the process:

A 9-month co-design phase:
Last Spring, we **co-organized with the civil society ten workshops** all over the country to understand the main requirements of the portal, define its mission, its design principles… (example: http://fr.okfn.org/2013/06/13/lokf-france-et-etalab-vous-invitent-a-redesigner-data-gouv-fr/)

Simultaneously, we launched an **open online consultation**, raising questions such as "how to foster the reuse of data", "how to incentivize administrations and agencies to share their data"… We received 66 answers, from many stakeholders : ministries, developers, NGOs, companies, individual civil servants or citizens… 17 of them authorized the publication of their contributions (http://www.etalab.gouv.fr/article-publication-des-contributions-et-lancement-de-la-phase-2-du-codesign-117859772.html)

We consulted our **network of experts twice** (http://www.etalab.gouv.fr/pages/Reseau_dexperts--8668267.html)

From July to December, we entered an **agile development phase**, sticking to user needs for every feature development. We created a "government start-up", bringing in 2 web entrepreneurs, obsessed by the culture of product, the user-experience, by growth-hacking. Additionally, choice was made to leverage the CKAN **open source standard,** with proven track-record and the experience of a community.

Development started on July 1st. As soon as July 7, a website was already online, which was replaced every week by a **new release improved through early users' feedback**. We went to them asking to submit a problem that the website could help solve, and we didn't develop a functionality without making sure that we would have users for it.

Last but not least: making a radical shift towards the social web, **the site is a community "by design"**, where a**nyone can contribute.** We applied the social mechanisms of social platforms, **building on various levels of user engagement**: users can vote for useful datasets, signal errors or irrelevant content; they can fork files and formats; publish their reuse or datasets…Content comes out of search results based on its usefulness, measured among others by number of reuses.

Designed *by* and *for* the civil society, the platform creates new collaborations between government and citizens: **data.gouv.fr is now a community of producers and users sharing public interest data.**

INITIATIVE OUTCOMES (required)

In 250 words or less, describe the intended outcomes and the actual outcomes that the initiative achieved. Who were the ultimate beneficiaries, and what benefits did they experience? For example, list any concrete improvements in policy, services, behaviors, or power relations between the government and citizens. Try to present your case from the perspective of the various stakeholders involved (e.g., your agency, citizens, Civil Society Organizations, media, et al.). If there are any baseline indicators or standards to measure the outcomes of the initiative, such as the breadth of depth of engagement, please describe them in detail.

After only 6 months, Data.gouv.fr demonstrates **a real and sustainable shift in the government's approach to engaging citizens,** and in the balance of powers : **330 organizations** are now providing data, among which 110 certified public services and 220 providers from the civil society.

High value datasets such as a complete cartography of health data, data on elections, state and local budgets, public safety, environmental data, state grants to associations, international aid, geographic referentials... which were not available before in open data have been added by a variety of providers.

The new data.gouv.fr now points to **four times as much information as the previous version.** All metrics and statistics are available online (http://www.data.gouv.fr/en/metrics and stats.data.gouv.fr): since December, audience went up 50%, from 50,000 visits to 75,000 visits per month.

Number of reuses attached to datasets is a critical KPI we are following, as it is usage that shows the value of data. We launched the site with 400 reuses, it has now almost tripled, with more than a **1,100 examples of data reuse** posted in the platform.

Many media (see two examples in attachment), civil society partners and well as ministries and civil servants have praised the initiative.

INITIATIVE SUSTAINABILITY (required)

In 200 words or less, please describe any plans for scaling up and/or sustaining the initiative in the future. Base your description of the strategy on information provided in the previous sections, such as how you intend to leverage your current success and increase your reach or capacity. Address any threats or operational challenges to your initiative and describe how you intend to manage those risks on a regular basis.

A real dynamic has been launched and is starting to scale.

The portal is now up and running, fed by inputs of users, **monitored and co-managed with the community.**

The method used to develop it, leveraging **co-design, agile development techniques and external innovation fellows**, has proven successful and been replicated for three other projects since then.

Most importantly, **the form of dialogue and cooperation iniated through the platform extends "offline"**: almost every week, datacamps and hackathons are taking place and fueling the platform with new datasets, new data improvements, new reuses.

While the first events were initiated by Etalab, ministries and administrations are now asking for them: Last week for instance, 3 datacamps took place, organized by the Agency for Water (ONEMA), by the Ministry of the Interior with OKFN on road safety policies, and by the Ministry of Finance on tax and fiscal data. Etalab often only appears as a label to support these initiatives.

Additionally, the platform code, enriched with all social features, is **shared on Github** and we are working with the CKAN community to develop it further.

These innovations could benefit other countries, and we're looking forward to working with all OGP members to push them foward.

VALIDATION OF CLAIMS (required)

While it is strongly encouraged that each initiative includes partners, such as Civil Society Organizations, private sector agencies, media entities, etc., it is not a requirement. However, you are required to secure and upload documents from one or more credible nongovernmental actors who can attest to the veracity of any claims made in your application.

You are only allowed to upload one file. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

OGP Awards - Validation of Claims and Press Articles.pdf

C. THE PITCH

The following information allows each applicant to make their strongest (and final) case for consideration.

BEST CASE (required)

In 250 words or less, please present the most compelling facts for why your initiative should be recognized. This is an opportunity to distinguish your initiative, based on any factors that you have not had the opportunity to describe in the previous sections. What is your best argument for why your initiative has achieved a meaningful outcome? What elements of the initiative make it different and better than others, that have been tried and tested? Be creative and concise.

France opened an innovative new chapter in the worldwide movement of open data, which aims at spurring empowerment and engagement of citizens in civic life, as well as more transparent and open governments.

We could quote many examples of **new, exclusive information that were not in open data before, which have become more accessible to citizens** : for instance, the ***"Commission Nationale des Comptes de Campagne et des Financements Politiques"*** (CNCCFP, National Commission for Campaign Accounts and Financing of Political Parties) released French political parties' detailed accounts for election campaigns.

Other example : the Ministry of Interior published last summer a ".pdf" document showing constituency funds allocated to every Member of Parliament in 2012 (130m€ annual allowance allocated to MPs). A civil society organization called *Regards Citoyens, active in MPs monitoring,* converted it into open formats and reposted it on the platform. It allowed journalists to conducted in-depth analyses in national newspapers (e.g., **http://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2013/08/06/comment-les-parlementaires-ont-utilise-leur-reserve-en-2012_3458300_823448.html**).

Even more importantly, c**ollaborations between government and civil society are extending beyond opening data alone**: it's moving to **co-productions of essential data infrastructure**, such as the "Open National Address Database" which is crowdsourced by OpenStreetMap, and supported by the French administration.

It is also extending to **opening models**: co-developed by civil servants, economists and coders, the OpenFisca.fr project provides an open source API enabling anyone to perform micro-simulations on the French tax and social allowance system. It is now **used by administrations, researchers, experts and civil society organizations** to build applications and simulate reform plans.

VIDEO SUBMISSION (recommended*)

OGP does not offer a venue for applicants to meet our judges during the application process. In order to provide the opportunity for making a personal connection, you are encouraged to upload a short video to complement your application. You may also depict an individual participant in your initiative and describe his or her experience. We do not need to know actual names or personal details. Take this opportunity to tell a story, to connect with our panel of experts, so that they might better understand your attention to specific needs.

Video submissions should follow these guidelines:

Maximum length of 3-4 minutes.
Please focus on personal presentations; it's not necessary to develop a sophisticated or polished video.

Here are some logistical and technical suggestions:

Video cameras, digital cameras, and phones are easy ways to record a video.
Laptop and desktop computers can typically record video through Skype or other software.

- If possible, set to a low resolution to reduce file size. This will enable an easier video uploading process.
- If you are having difficulty uploading the video file, try logging out of the application and logging back in using another Internet browser.

Here are general suggestions for delivering a high-quality video pitch:

- Include the following:
  - Introduce yourself and your initiative.
  - Focus on describing your intended benefits and/or services and how they have been effective.
  - What is unique about your initiative, partners, or technical approach?
- Hone your content:
  - Keep your description and language simple.
  - Demonstrate passion through your words and enthusiasm.

*If the burden of developing a video presentation is either prohibitive or might not reflect the best characterization of your initiative, then you are not required to submit one, and the judges are instructed not to discount your application because it may not include a video. We hope that this option offers a new and inventive way in which you can best express the results of your work.