The full report is available at www.hatvp.fr
OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, THE RISE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES TRANSFORMED OPEN DATA INTO AN INSTRUMENT THAT ENHANCES THE TRANSPARENCY OF GOVERNMENTS AND IMPROVES THE INTEGRITY OF PUBLIC DECISION-MAKERS.

- Open data is an efficient tool, which allows civil society to reuse public administration data in order to monitor the integrity of institutions and the probity of public officials.

- Citizens’ involvement in the control of public action and the repression of breaches of public integrity may lead to multiple outcomes.

- There is a relatively close correlation between the degree of openness of public data and the level of public integrity across the world. This leads more and more international organizations to adopt open data as a core element in their anti-corruption strategies.

- 12% of the Open Government Partnership commitments address integrity issues.

- Research efforts could elucidate the impact of open data in countries where it is a part of the national integrity systems.

OPEN DATA IS A PROMISING VECTOR FOR STRENGTHENING PUBLIC INTEGRITY. TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF ITS POTENTIAL:

**IMPACT**

**PREVENTION**
Open data increases accountability and discourages inappropriate behavior through the fear of judicial sanctions or reputational damage.

**DETECTION**
Open data facilitates the gathering of information and the administration of evidence, thus improving the detection of criminal offenses.

**INVESTIGATION**
Through the crosscheck of large information and various databases, open data contributes to the enrichment and deepening of investigative possibilities.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**
Encourage further research on open data’s contribution to public integrity.
IN ORDER FOR OPEN DATA TO BE AN EFFECTIVE FACTOR IN PROMOTING PUBLIC INTEGRITY, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE DATA RELEASED BY THE GOVERNMENTS ENABLES CITIZENS TO HAVE A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROBITY OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

- Among the thousands of data released each year by public institutions, core political data are essential: while governments gradually release these data at the national level, the situation is different at the local level, even though probity risks are equally present.

- The level of timeliness and relevance of data release, which includes a high level of disaggregation to facilitate thorough investigations, often determine the level of data reuse by civil society. This is particularly relevant for the control of public spending.

- The development of data visualizations renders public information more comprehensible and stimulates public interest in matters that are often not easily accessible. These tools can be developed either directly by the administrations that release data or in cooperation with civil society organizations that are particularly interested in these issues.

- The impact of open data depends on the interoperability of public information systems, which facilitates the exchange and cross-checking of data. Interoperability is a critical factor, since the use of a single database as the source of information is rarely sufficient to detect violations of public integrity.

RECOMMANDATIONS

Accelerate the development of open data at the local level and initiate its deployment within the related bodies.

Ensure the publication of the most complete and disaggregated financial data to enable civil society to monitor the proper use of public funds.

Accompany the publication of complex data by data-visualization tools to render the information comprehensible to a large audience.

Support the interoperability of information systems to ensure compatibility and cross-checking of public databases.

ADMINISTRATIONS MUST RELEASE QUALITY AND EASILY REUSABLE DATA
BUILDING ON THE VALUES OF SHARING, FREE REUSE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, OPEN DATA HELPS REDEFINE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CITIZENS AND INSTITUTIONS.

- Public institutions do not always know the interest that the data they release may elicit and the prospects for these data, particularly in regards to integrity. The involvement of researchers and civil society organizations in the reuse of these data can be highly valuable.

- Certain aspects of public action, like public budgets and expenditures, remain neglected by data users. Thus, administrations must play a catalyzing role by producing initial analyses that could generate interest for these data.

- In the reuse of public data, civil society relies on the combination of open data and freedom of information, granting access to administrative documents, which has long been a powerful tool for prevention and detection of violations of integrity.

- Open data does not replace the action of government oversight agencies. It relays and complements it by enriching the scope of investigations carried out by investigative journalists and CSOs. Its impact depends on its integration into a comprehensive strategy to strengthen public integrity.

RECOMMANDATIONS

- Involve civil society in determining public data relevant for the promotion of public integrity and prioritizing their release.

- Facilitate public institutions’ production of analysis likely to stimulate public interest in complex matters.

- Strengthen the right of access to administrative documents and develop prospects for reuse by encouraging public institutions to publish in open data format the data they release under freedom of information.

RELATIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY MUST BE CONDUCIVE TO EFFECTIVE RE-USE OF DATA BY CITIZENS