



Open Knowledge



Projects



by OKFN
September 18, 2013

New partnership to bring open data to developing countries

2 Min Read

We are really excited to announce a new partnership between us, the World Bank and the ODI, which was announced at OKCon in Geneva today. This important joint venture aims to bring open data projects and engagement to developing countries. Here's the press release.



Left to right: Laura James and Rufus Pollock, the Open Knowledge Foundation; Amparo Ballivan, World Bank; Jeni Tennison from UK ODI; and Edward Anderson, World Bank.

The World Bank has joined forces with the Open Data Institute and the Open Knowledge Foundation in a 3-year project designed to help policy makers and citizens in developing countries understand and exploit the benefits of open data.

The project, launched today at the Open Knowledge Conference in Geneva, has three objectives: supporting developing countries to plan, execute and run open data initiatives; increasing the use of open data in developing countries; and growing the evidence-base on the impact of open data for development.

Amparo Ballivan, Lead Economist at the World Bank said: *“Open data has already brought extraordinary benefits to people in rich countries, helping them to understand and improve the world around them. This project will take the benefits of open data to the developing world. It will explore and extend the frontiers of open data and harness its benefits for poverty reduction.”*

The project will include scoping the state of open data; assessing the readiness of countries to open up – and use – their data; training government officials, other policy makers, and civil society; undertaking research and producing guidelines on the best use of open data; and producing case studies of impact. At this stage all developing countries have an equal chance of participating.

Gavin Starks, CEO of the ODI said: *“Open data drives economic growth and spurs innovation, unlocking previously unforeseen benefits for everyday citizens and for society as a whole. This project will enable more countries and citizens to discover solutions to their most pressing challenges. Our partnership with the World Bank and the Open Knowledge Foundation opens up almost limitless possibilities: to share, collaborate and generate value*

from open data at a global scale. Plus, it aligns entirely with the ODI's aim to expand into new countries and sectors."

With an initial budget of \$1.25m in year one, the three founding organisations are looking for other partners to join them on the project. Interested parties should contact the ODI or Open Knowledge Foundation to find out more.

Laura James, CEO of the Open Knowledge Foundation: *"Making government, scientific and other data accessible and usable drives positive change across the spectrum: from health to transport, education to entrepreneurship, culture to community. This project will give citizens in developing countries the knowledge they need to campaign for change, and empower them to hold their governments to account."*

Ends

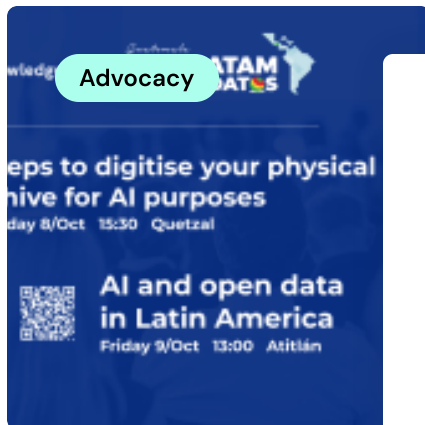
Video of the announcement

For the release as it was mailed out, see [here](#)



The official voice of the Open Knowledge Foundation.

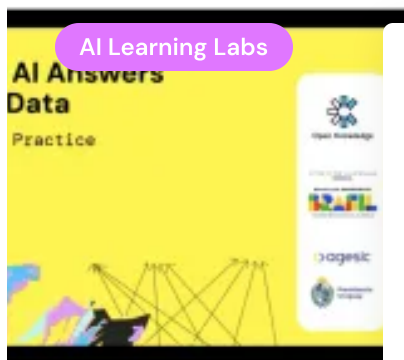
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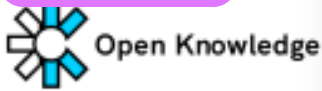


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Tony Roberts

October 8, 2013 at 09:42

Don't you think it looks bad telling the story this way? i.e. white people swoop in and save developing countries with their clever advanced technology. Wouldn't your partnership be stronger if it was made with and co-led by some of the many Open Data initiatives started in 'developing countries'?

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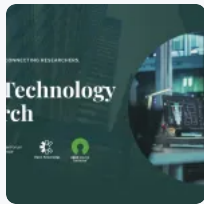
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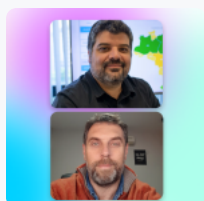
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