

OpenGov: It's Better Together

Connecting Tunisian government, civil society, and private sector to create sustainable Open Data, e-Participation, and e-Services projects.

Bizerte, Tunisia | 19 December 2012

The Opportunity

Open government can benefit Tunisia. New businesses formed by young entrepreneurs to meet Tunisian specific problems in open data, e-participation, and e-services can strengthen the ICT sector and generate economic development and employment opportunities. The solutions they develop can create greater trust in government through improved accountability, citizen engagement, and public services. International donors including the World Bank, UNDP, and USAID see these benefits and are funding open government work. In addition, open government may become a new international norm for government legitimacy if the membership of the Open Government Partnership continues its current trend - 58 countries in just over a year!

Purpose

Sustainable open government implementations are marked by three things: local ownership; strong involvement from the government, civil society, and the private sector; and solid working relationships between these three. *OpenGov: It's Better Together* will convene Tunisia's government champions, civil society idealists, and private sector innovators in order to create a strong community with the ability to work together. The event will provide common terminology and understanding about open government, and a participant-driven format that enables focused discussions between the participants about both current and proposed projects.

Outcomes

The event will solidify the connections between the participants and put Tunisia in a strong position to turn the opportunities listed above into local realities. The ideas exchanged and the relationships that form at this event will lead to more efficient and effective implementation of projects with a wider diversity of organizations and individuals involved from the beginning. This means that the results will be more beneficial to a larger percentage of Tunisians, be more sustainable, and have a greater impact on the society as a whole.

The Organizers

Wayne Moses Burke founded the nonprofit Open Forum Foundation in Washington, DC to connect citizens to government. He has been involved in the US open government movement since it was launched by President Obama in 2009 and has designed and facilitated collaborative and innovative events with Moldova's E-Government Center, the US State Dept, USAID, the World Bank, and NASA. More information at <http://open4m.org/>.

Imen Ameer is the General Manager of IA Consulting, a Tunisian firm that focuses on improving governance and e-governance in both the public and private sectors. She frequently acts as liaison between the government, civil society, and companies interested in this space, and is always looking for ways to improve Tunisia.

Contact Imen Ameer at im.ameur@gmail.com or Wayne Moses Burke at wayne@open4m.org.

OpenGov: It's Better Together

Draft Agenda

This is not your average event. It is specifically designed to educate and connect the participants by using a structured format that enables them to actively engage with the speakers and with one another. This format grew out of Silicon Valley and has been closely associated with open government and innovation in the United States.

8:00am Registration Opens

9:00am Opening Plenary

- 9:00am What is OpenGov? - Introduction and Welcome - Imen Ameer, IA Consulting
- 9:15am The Tunisian Government's Perspective on OpenGov - (TBC: Minister of Governance and Anti-Corruption **OR** Minister of ICT)
- 9:30am The Global Rise of OpenGov and OGP - Wayne Moses Burke, Open Forum Foundation
- 9:45am Why is OpenGov Important to Civil Society? - (TBD)
- 10:00am Why does the Private Sector Care? - Khaled Koubaa, Policy Manager North Africa, Google

10:15am Project Ideas - Wayne Moses Burke, Open Forum Foundation

- Participants will work together to generate ideas for OpenGov projects in Tunisia.

11:45am What is going on in Tunisia Today?

- 11:45 am Government of Tunisia the Government Perspective - Khaled Sellami, Director General of the E-Government Unit, Tunisia
- 12:00pm The Civil Society Perspective - Riyadh Gefali, Nawaat
- 12:15pm The Private Sector Perspective - Karim Karaat SHK Consulting (TBC)

12:30pm Lunch

2:00pm Inspiration from Outside Tunisia

- 2:00pm eGov Policy - Richard Kerby, UN (TBC)
- 2:10pm Innovation in OpenGov - Chris Vein, US Deputy CTO for Innovation (TBC)
- 2:20pm Open Data - Irina Tişacova, Open Government and Open Data Coordinator at e-Government Center, Moldova

2:30pm Project Discussions and Proposals - Wayne Moses Burke, Open Forum Foundation

- International experts and speakers will engage in the discussions.
- Participants will propose OpenGov projects that they want to see happen. These may be existing projects that are seeking advice, or brand new projects from the morning's idea generation.
- All proposed projects will receive a table and discussion period and participants will choose which projects in each time slot they want to discuss.

6:00pm Project Presentations and Closing

- Presentations of how the ideas are becoming reality.
- Why Today's Accomplishments Matter to Tunisia - Speaker TBD

7:00pm Dinner and Reception

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