What is Open Government?

" A culture of governance that promotes the principles of transparency, integrity, accountability and stakeholder participation in support of democracy and inclusive growth"

Transparency

Integrity

Accountability

Participation

OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government

Adopted in 2017 - First international legal instrument on OG

Adherent: OECD member countries + Argentina, Brazil, Morocco, Romania, Tunisia

Open government in OECD countries

Legal framework

- Most constitutions include ATI right, participation, civic freedoms (75% include handling of citizens' complaints, 68% participation)
- All OECD countries now have laws on access to public information
- Some have laws on participation (Colombia) or legal requirements to engage stakeholders, on accountability (Canada), on integrity/AC
- Executive decrees, directives (Canada, US) declarations (Colombia, Costa Rica's on open state)
- Civil service law, code of conduct referring to OG principles: 74-78%

Policy framework

- High-level, long-term government strategies (Lithuania, Germany, Mexico)
- Strategies on open data (Ireland), digital services (NZ), OGP action plans
- National strategy on open government (Finland, Canada)

Institutional framework

- Office in charge of OG coordination (62% in HoG or cabinet office)
- Inter-ministerial committees (Canada, Mexico), Govt/CSO forums (UK, Italy)

Open government in OECD countries

Funding
- 89% countries: funds allocated by the institutions responsible for implementing each project
- Some countries have a dedicated OG aggregated budget line (Canada, Korea, NL)

Stakeholder engagement
- Only half of OECD countries have a law/strategy/policy focusing on citizen participation
- Many positive examples: participatory budgets, online consultations, deliberative processes (citizens' assemblies, juries, panels, conventions…)
- Varies greatly, challenges remain (civic space)

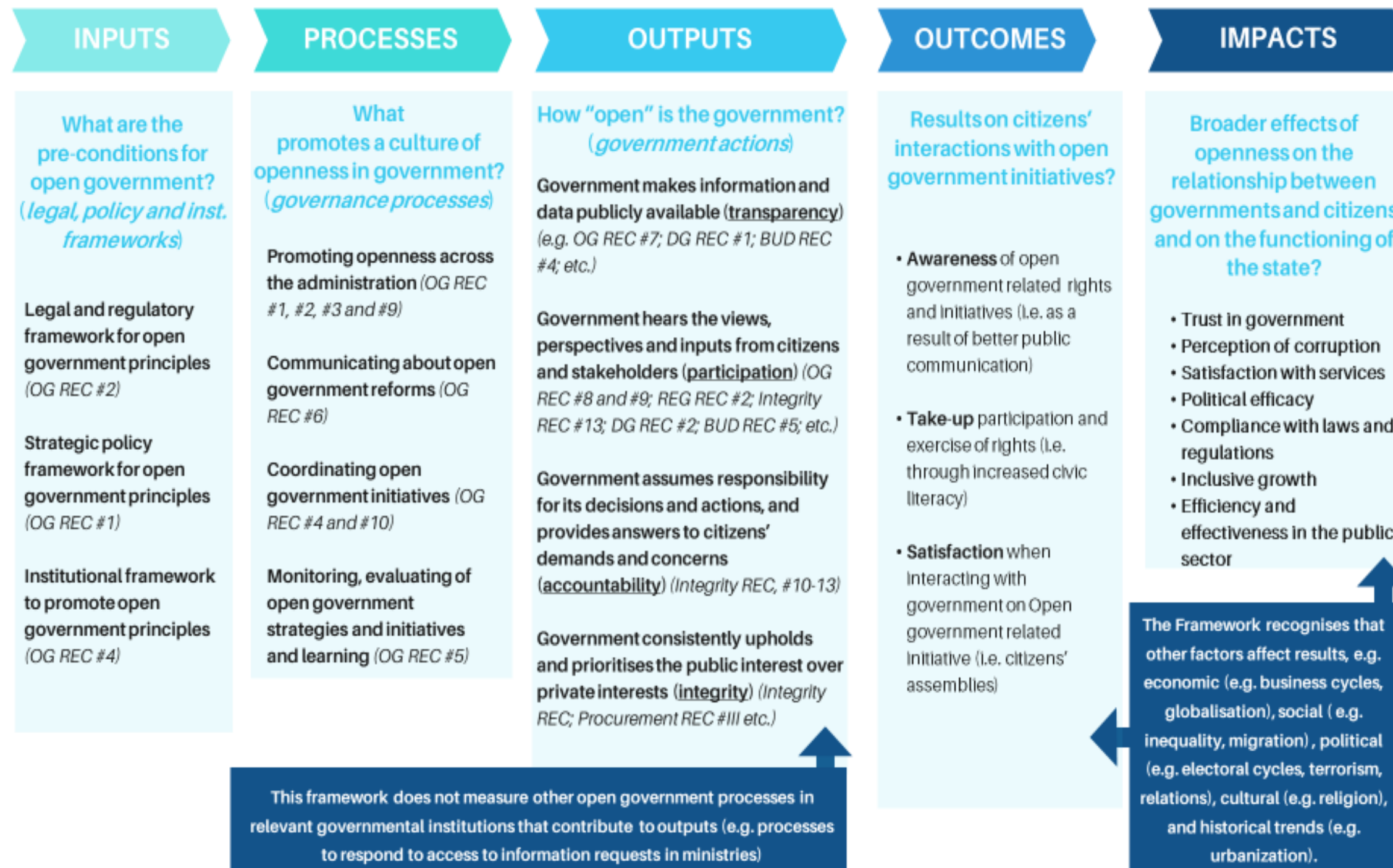**Way forward: open state and innovation**
- Open state: mainstreaming OG beyond the executive (legislature, judiciary, sub-national)
- Innovation as enabler, output of OG (e.g. crowdsourcing, citizen-centred design, hackathons)

Remaining challenges
- Coordination (strategies), measuring impact/success, focus on one component (e.g. ICT), personal data protection, human/financial resources, awareness.

A suggested openness framework

A theory of change: OG principles ➡️ increased levels of openness ➡️ broader impact

INPUTS	PROCESSES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	IMPACTS
What are the pre-conditions for open government? (*legal, policy and inst. frameworks*)	What promotes a culture of openness in government? (*governance processes*)	How "open" is the government? (*government actions*)	Results on citizens' interactions with open government initiatives?	Broader effects of openness on the relationship between governments and citizens and on the functioning of the state?

INPUTS

Legal and regulatory framework for open government principles *(OG REC #2)*

Strategic policy framework for open government principles *(OG REC #1)*

Institutional framework to promote open government principles *(OG REC #4)*

PROCESSES

Promoting openness across the administration *(OG REC #1, #2, #3 and #9)*

Communicating about open government reforms *(OG REC #6)*

Coordinating open government initiatives *(OG REC #4 and #10)*

Monitoring, evaluating of open government strategies and initiatives and learning *(OG REC #5)*

OUTPUTS

Government makes information and data publicly available (underline: transparency) *(e.g. OG REC #7; DG REC #1; BUD REC #4; etc.)*

Government hears the views, perspectives and inputs from citizens and stakeholders (participation) *(OG REC #8 and #9; REG REC #2; Integrity REC #13; DG REC #2; BUD REC #5; etc.)*

Government assumes responsibility for its decisions and actions, and provides answers to citizens' demands and concerns (accountability) *(Integrity REC, #10-13)*

Government consistently upholds and prioritises the public interest over private interests (integrity) *(Integrity REC; Procurement REC #III etc.)*

OUTCOMES

• **Awareness** of open government related rights and initiatives (i.e. as a result of better public communication)

• **Take-up** participation and exercise of rights (i.e. through increased civic literacy)

• **Satisfaction** when interacting with government on Open government related initiative (i.e. citizens' assemblies)

IMPACTS

• Trust in government
• Perception of corruption
• Satisfaction with services
• Political efficacy
• Compliance with laws and regulations
• Inclusive growth
• Efficiency and effectiveness in the public sector

This framework does not measure other open government processes in relevant governmental institutions that contribute to outputs (e.g. processes to respond to access to information requests in ministries)

The Framework recognises that other factors affect results, e.g. economic (e.g. business cycles, globalisation), social (e.g. inequality, migration) , political (e.g. electoral cycles, terrorism, relations), cultural (e.g. religion), and historical trends (e.g. urbanization).

Some good practices at local level

Crowdsourcing the Mexico City constitution
- Responding to mistrust, perception on the city's first-ever constitution (2017)
- Survey "Imagine Your City" asked citizens about hopes, fears, ideas for the city: 31k submissions
- Change.org used to capture citizen petitions: 341 citizen proposals received over 400k votes
- More than 100 discussion groups were formed
- 14 articles of the new constitution were based on citizen petitions

Bogotá School Feeding Programme (Colombia)
- Challenge of low quality school meals, largely as a result of limited competition
- Introduction of an open contracting process based on an open procurement data portal
- Open data identified inflated prices/price fixing → authorities changed procurement procedures
- Number of suppliers quadrupled, savings of 10-15%, quality of school meals improved

Some good practices at local level

Molenwaard Nearby (the Netherlands)

- Response to the challenge of building a new town hall that would have cost EUR 15 mln
- Instead: first local council in the Netherlands to operate without a town hall
- Any place is suitable as a workplace for civil servants: a Virtual Office can be accessed at home, village halls, local clubs, cafés, buildings where the local authority rents office space
- For dealings with citizens, the local authority goes out to where citizens are, by appointment

Participatory budgeting in Paris (France)

- All citizen can propose a project on the dedicated portal and receive support for drafting
- Feasibility analysis, dialogue with proponents, technical analysis, vote on the portal / in person
- Implementation by the municipality and progress tracking
- As of Nov 2021, 2,914 projects have been implemented since the initiative was launched
- Introduced in 2014, the budget subject to participation reached EUR 500mln in 2019

Thank you!

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https://www.oecd.org/gov/open-government/