New way of thinking: open government, innovation and achieving the SDGs

Workshop on Fostering Open Government in the Arab Region
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Lize Denner
Associate Programme Management Officer
Innovation Section – Technology for Development Division
The SGDs and open government
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- **Participation**
  - Sharing of ideas and comments
  - Online citizen polling

- **Collaboration**
  - Open cooperation
  - Open science and technology policymaking, United Kingdom

- **Openness**
  - Open data
  - Banana farms in Uganda

- **Citizen Engagement**
  - School Governing Bodies, South Africa
Innovation in the Public Sector

**Innovation is**

- New way of achieving a result and/or performing work
- It can be completely new, a change in to a current system, or something that already exists elsewhere implemented for the first time.
- Outcome can be a product, service, policy and programme, or a process.
- It can have as its focus new or adapted technologies, or technology for supporting other forms of public sector innovation.

- Objective is to enhance the social welfare and economic growth of a country for a better sustainable future.
Innovation Processes

- Bottom-up innovation
- Collaborative innovation
- Disruptive innovation
- Frugal innovation
- Incremental innovation
- Local innovation
- Open innovation

- Each of these innovation types have the potential to
  - Enhance open government initiatives
  - Help to achieve the SDGs
Project Isizwe

• In collaboration with the City of Tshwane and private mobile operators
• It provides free wi-fi access to citizens in public spaces
• Creating hotspots close to communities with 500 MB, daily free to users
• Focusing on low-income regions and communities
• Providing educational purposes, economic development and social inclusion.
• Began with City of Tshwane, but has now expanded to other places in Gauteng Province as well as other provinces.
Fostering innovation

• Two questions:
  • How to foster innovation in the public sector?
  • Which option the best for innovation ideas?

• Two components were created
  • IDEA Lifecycle
  • A tool for the identification of preferred processes
Fostering innovation: IDEA Lifecycle

- Methodology for the developing of innovations
  - Produce products and services for society
  - Diverse needs that dynamically evolves over time
- Lifecycle has four main phases
- Each phase has a set of activities
- Circular: numerous iterations
- Activities can overlap others can be bypassed
- Adaptable to the needs of the organization
Fostering innovation: IDEA Lifecycle

**Ideation Phase:**
- Idea generation
- Internal stakeholders
- Based on needs

**Deliberation Phase:**
- Discussions with external stakeholders
- Citizens, businesses, civil society, public sectors

**Evolution Phase:**
- Implementation of proposals
- Monitoring implementation

**Assimilation Phase:**
- Monitoring impact and adoption of innovations
- Value and sustainability of innovations
Fostering innovation: Identification of preferred processes

- Tool that asks users to rate items attached to four questions
- The questions are based on the rational, success factors, risk factors and envisioned outcome of each process
  - Which rationale is important?
  - What may be difficult to achieve?
  - What negative effects could happen?
  - What is important to achieve?
- Each element is rated and in the end the rating for each processes is tallied.
- The outcome is a list of processes ordered from the best fit to least best fit.
Challenges in Public Sector Innovation

• Important to consider the challenges, while planning innovations
• Identification and possible course of actions

Some challenges identified are:
• Where, when, by whom, with whom an why
• Recognizing when to innovate and establishing indicators
• Para-procedurality – adapting to deal with everyday cases
• Identifying the ideal stakeholders
• Cost and pays of innovation procedures
• Identifying what is an important innovation
• Working with various stakeholders
• Monitoring innovations
Thank you