OPEN DATA
& PUBLIC INTEGRITY
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR AN EXEMPLARY DEMOCRACY

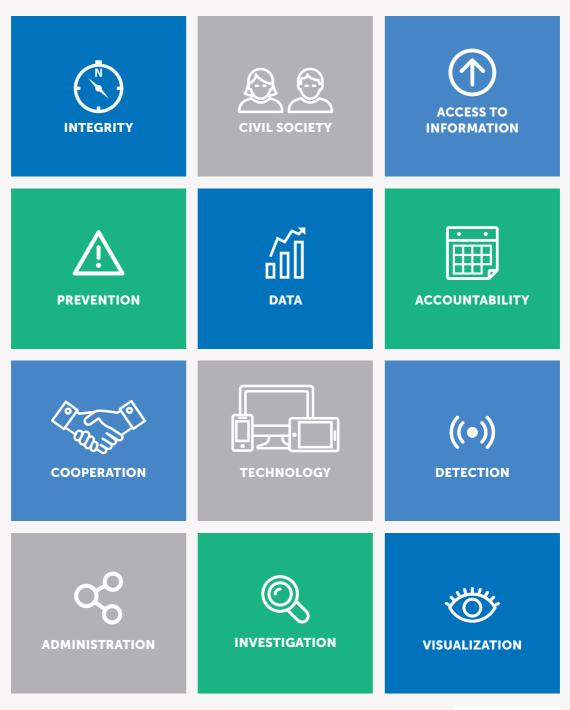**HIGH AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPARENCY OF PUBLIC LIFE** FOR THE **OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP GLOBAL SUMMIT** CONTRIBUTION **PARIS 2016**

INTEGRITY

CIVIL SOCIETY

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

PREVENTION

DATA

ACCOUNTABILITY

COOPERATION

TECHNOLOGY

DETECTION

ADMINISTRATION

INVESTIGATION

VISUALIZATION

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.

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.

RECOMMANDATIONS

Encourage further research on open data's contribution to public integrity.

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

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.

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