Good Internal Systems for Good External Publication

Lorena Rivero del Paso
Manager for Technical Cooperation
@LorenaRDP
6 Reasons WHY Fiscal Openness is Necessary in Times of Emergency

1. Trace design and implementation of measures (including progressiveness and trade-offs)

2. Identify fiscal sustainability and flag potential risks

3. Improve efficiency and effectiveness in fast decision-making

4. Prevent (or detect) corruption or mismanagement

5. Make sure that measures that are meant to be temporary actually are

6. Enable informed public participation
Publication is only as good as the data gathered
Aspiration

- All core Public Financial Management processes supported by Financial Management Information Systems
- Interconnected data / data infrastructure within the ministry of finance and line ministries
- No duplicated data
- Efficient systems where inputs are easy and are flexible to adapt
- Connection from internal systems/data warehouse to publication though a data portal
What data?

01 Emergency and countercyclical spending

02 Tax relief measures and deferrals

03 Revenue adjustments and additional funding sources

04 Macroeconomic framework impact

Version 1.0. READY TO USE and OPEN for inputs

15 DATASETS + TIME SERIES

http://fiscaltransparency.net/covid19/
What happens when there is no system?

- Systems are based on data models
  - Consider the relevance of structured data (Press releases are not enough for data collection!)
What happens when the systems are fragmented?

- Standardize the form of collection of the data

https://fiscal.treasury.gov/data-transparency/DAIMS-current.html
Leverage systems for...

- Control
- Transparency
- Auditing

https://opentreasury.gov.ng/#
Leverage systems for...

- ...And decision making


Serenata has created Rosie: an artificial intelligence who analyzes Brazilian congresspeople expenses while they are in office. Rosie can find suspicious spendings and engage citizens in the discussion about these findings.

https://serenata.ai/
Moving forward

• Use the systems for all the resources

• First change the process, with that adapt the digital solution

• Choose agile

• Embed automatic controls in the system, as opposed to manual or post-revision controls (data input validations, machine learning red flags...)

• When systems are not available, use data schemas and flattened data (as opposed to reports)
Moving forward

• If the systems do not talk to each other make the DATA speak!

• When designing a system/schema or any data gathering tool ask yourself, expected internal and external users:
  
  • What do you want to use this data for? (Purpose)

  • How do you expect to use it? (Tools/capacities)

The answers will help you define a better data model based on use cases

• Distinguish between hype and worthwhile innovations for your system purpose