



EaPEC 2018

Winners of the 2018 EYR@EaP call will be announced at this year's Eastern Partnership E-Infrastructures Conference, EaPEC 2018, in Chisinau, Moldova on 17-18 October.
www.eapconnect.eu/eapec/

OPEN DATA IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP – AN ENLIGHTEN YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT



Pictures
Far left: Igbal Safarov holding a workshop with the Belarusian open data community in Minsk

Left: Igbal Safarov was a winner of the 2017 call for Enlighten Your Research project proposals in the Eastern Partnership region: www.eapconnect.eu/research-eap/eyrap2017/

The opportunity to collect and use data from various stages of activity by governments and public organisations has increased massively since the advent of e-government and digital infrastructures. The philosophy that promotes transparency, accountability and value creation in a country by making government data available to all is known as Open Government Data (OGD).

OGD is a very significant source for policymakers and academics to apply data analytics tools and study various fields including (but not limited to) education, healthcare, economy and other areas of social activity.

Supported by the Eastern Partnership Connect project, EaPConnect, Enlighten Your Research programme (EYR@EaP), a study of OGD in Eastern Partnership countries has been carried out by Igbal Safarov, a researcher at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

Safarov's research investigates frameworks for describing an open data policy portfolio that establishes and improves open data adoption and use in the EaP countries. OGD adoption, data sharing and use are estimated to have positive impact on good governance, economic development and society.

In May and July, Safarov organised five open data workshops in the Eastern Partnership countries, where he met high-level representatives from academic institutions, along with researchers, government officials, open data activists and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the potential of open data, open science data, open data-driven research and evidence-based policy making, and ideas for further cooperation.

“Despite the fact that the open data concept is new in Eastern Partnership countries, and there are very few successful projects,” says Igbal Safarov, “the communities, governments and scholars have strong motivation to increase open data use and re-use. Among the six countries, Ukraine has the most developed open data adoption, thanks to the intention of the Ukrainian government, very strong open data community and international donor organisations. The positive progress in some countries encourages us to pay more efforts for promoting open data, sharing the benefits of data-driven approach in research and policy-making.”

Igbal will send a country report to open data operators and will publish an article in ‘Government Information Quarterly’. His initial results will be presented at an upcoming conference at the earliest opportunity and this research will form the basis for his further activities to develop a framework for improving open data adoption and usage in EaP countries.