Open Data Policy on EITI Reporting

Azerbaijan

2016

Introduction

This paper designates implementation of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Open Data Policy by EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group in Azerbaijan and defines principles thereof. Paper on Open Data Policy in EITI Reporting was adopted unanimously with the consent of all parties at MSG meeting dated December 20, 2016.

EITI Open Data Policy covers public information and such information which is not prohibited by law for disclosure, as well as information made publicly accessible by MSG decision.

Open Data Policy is one of the priorities in "Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2016-2018" implemented within Open Government Partnership of the Republic of Azerbaijan.[1]

MSG defines term "Open data" as following[2]:

Open data is data that can be freely used, re-used and shared by anyone – the only restriction concerns the obligation of naming the author.

Two aspects should be taken into consideration here:
<u>Legally open</u>: existing open data license, enabling user to access freely, use and share information, no legal prohibitions for disclosing information;
<u>Technically open</u>: Making information accessible for user, machine-readable and comparable, being open in the form of complete database.

EITI stakeholders in Azerbaijan, relying on the listed below, hope that proper implementation of open data policy for ensuring efficiency of EITI process in the country and its permanent improvement are of great significance:

- Open data concepts is the center of informational revolution today. People expect broader digital access to much information at any time and form they wish. Such information serves for constant development of corresponding areas by assisting in shaping new thoughts and ideas.
- Open data plays important role in ensuring transparent activity of government and other sectors. Open data encourages awareness increase in such issues as mineral resources management and efficient use of revenues from extraction. All these aspects

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[1] "Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2016-2018" http://www.e-qanun.az/framework/32647
[2] While defining "Open data" term MSG referred mainly to "Open Data Handbook".
http://opendatahandbook.org/guide/en/what-is-open-data/

impact positively to improvement of reporting and good governance, lowering corruption.

Opan Data Policy princinples[3]

1- Online and free use
Azerbaijan EITI information should be accessible in freely usable digital form.

2- Referring to primary sources
Record included into EITI report should refer to primary sources. All links should be clear and the sources and procedures for acquiring data should be described in correct manner.

3- Timely disclosure
EITI data should be made accessible as soon as possible. Data quality is in direct ratio to its timely disclosure. For this reason MSG should try to make EITI reports publicly accessible as soon as they are released.

4- Accessibility
Accessibility is defined as the ease with which information can be obtained. MSG should try to eliminate all possible factors impeding free access to data by people. MSG should also ensure that data is downloaded easily and in one click, and effective search functions exist.

5- Machine readable and analyzable
EITI data provided only in PDF format is analyzed with difficulty. MSG should ensure that data is stored and accessed in file formats that can be easily read by machines (xls, csv və xml).

6- Completeness

Data in EITI reports should cover all information in defined framework. Data should be made accessible in comprehensive form with explanations.

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[3] MSG referred to "G8 Open Data Charter" and "Open government Data: The Book" while defining Open Data Policy principles.