Short Session Report: Game Changers

Session Title: On-line civic innovation against corruption – New Technology to solve an old problem.
Date & Time: 9th November 2012
Report prepared by: Lucas Olo, TI-S/ Georg Neumann

Experts:

Neringa Mickeviciute, TI Lithuania.
Chris Doig, Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy.
Usha Venkatachallam, Partnership for Transparency Fund.
Colby Pachenco, Partnership for Transparency Fund.
Sergejus Muravjovas, TI Lithuania.

Moderated by: Chris Doig

Session coordinated by: Sergejus Muravjovas

Main issues raised in kick off remarks. What’s the focus of the session?

Showcase the examples of crowd sourcing, data collection, that may be useful to empower citizens and use these feedback for advocacy at governmental level.

What initiatives have been showcased? Briefly describe the Game Changing Strategies

- Partnership for Transparency Fund: Citizen Action platform. The project will provide a php-based Drupal platform combined of existing and new models around corruption reporting systems. The five main modules are:
  - Reporting module
- TI-Lithuania: how with low level technical skills things can easily be done. With minimum staff and financial resources IT helps attend the objectives using open source technology (i.e.). The platform they created solicits reports of petty corruption and questions related to corruption or bureaucracy, to educate people about what happens inside of institutions. They themselves answer questions and they also recruit other users, pro bono layers and institutions. [skaidrumolinija.it](http://skaidrumolinija.it)

- Ipaidabribe.com in India: analyses corruption, create networks of support, change the business process within departments. Successes have been achieved such as the traffic department of Bangalore, seeing a systemic change. Challenges are still there, such as low internet penetration, language limitations, etc. Mobile Plattforms, Crowed sessions, infographic and presentation of data.
  - Q 1: Multiple mobile platforms project
    - Voice recording/stings, augmented reality, GIS technology, gaming,
  - Q2:Coalition of crowdsourcing against corruption
    - IPaidABribe replicas existing in Kenya and Greece, link to similar initiatives such as BribeMarket in Romania, Ushahidi
  - Q3:Infographics and interaction in the presentation of data
    - Need to make sure bribery trends and quarterly reports are visual to promote reporting.
    - MOOC course on data visualizations. Knight Centre for Online Journalism

- Other issues that came up:
  - Why to do complaints anonymously? Culture of not reporting corruption. Protection. Diffamation. Balance between anonymous/putting faces to corruption
Highlights: What are the main outcomes of this session? What’s next?

Technology is still a challenge, but there are means to overcome them. Examples show that friendly user and low cost measures. There are also available tools that can help CSOs.

Online reporting are might be useful for instance for Whistle-blowers can be more comfortable using online tools also, safer reporting.

The reports help also feed the advocacy initiative and to approach those institutions receiving most corruption report.

Mapping corrupt institutions also encourage other people report on the same cases, and also showcase those institutions most corrupt.

Apps are being developed to easier report, such as SMS.
What are the recommendations, follow-up Actions (200 words narrative form)

Establishing communities of practice and networks: will help crowdsourcing. Enhance the roles of peoples, coordination...

Presenting data: should look engaging and interactive.

Feedback from citizens is used to approach institutions: there is a need to improve the engagement with the institution, need to show them the work being done.

There is a need to understand further how to use these tools.

Internet and online tools may be seen as engagement or reach out tools rather than a solution per-se, keeping therefore other reporting systems.

There is a need to also bridge the gap in rural areas (i.e.) by using “infomediaries” where technology may not reach.

What should be done to create opportunities for scaling up the proven solutions discussed in the session? What and by whom?

The audience agreed that the online tools are useful and they plan to use such tools in the near future. With the need to both have a deeper knowledge of these tools and keep other relevant non-online tools to bridge the gap that still exists due to the digital divide.
Key Insights Recommended to be included in the IACC Declaration

Rapporteur’s name and date submitted

Lucas Olo and Georg Neumann - 9 November 2012