Building Local Budget Transparency through an Online Database for Advocacy on Health, Education, and Fulfillment of Economic Rights

A pilot project implemented by Perkumpulan IDEA with support from Open Data Lab Jakarta under the Open Data for Transparency Project

Funding for this initiative is provided by the Southeast Asia Technology and Transparency Initiative

BACKGROUND

PERKUMPULAN IDEA has been actively involved in budget transparency work by translating local government budget data into formats understandable by citizens. In the past, it took months to convert thick budget books to a clearly summarized format, presented through printed and digital media. This project assisted IDEA in reducing processing time and making visualizations available online for citizens to access and comment on.

IDEA developed Open Data APBD to make it easier for the local public to access, read, and understand government data in both online and offline formats.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

PROJECT PHASE

OUTPUTS

MONITORING AND EVALUATING EXPERIENCE
OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC

Positive user survey results, and government commitment



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GENERATING GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT FOR FUTURE DISCLOSURE OF OPEN BUDGETS

Government commitment to adopt open data



2

LAUNCHING OF OPEN DATA APBD YOGYAKARTA CITY (ONLINE AND OFFLINE)

Social media, website, posters and newspapers



ACCESSING, CONVERTING, AND ANALYSING GOVERNMENT BUDGET DATA

Budget data in open format











Launch of Open Data APBD Yogyakarta City with citizens, fellow CSOs, members of the Open Data Lab Jakarta and government officials in attendance



Focus group discussion on the Open Data APBD Yogyakarta City

LESSONS LEARNED

- Open data requires the partnership of government and citizens. Government officials are anxious to share data, perceiving it to be the city government's property and responsibility. But they need to be aware of the citizens' right to data and disclosure of government information is necessary to achieve good governance.
- Campaigns using social media such as Twitter and Facebook are useful and effective for generating and encouraging public engagement and feedback. Based on a survey that IDEA conducted, 95% of respondents said that Open Data APBD made the data much easier to access while 92% respondents could distinguish a trend of revenue and expenditure per year based on the visualisations and analysis shared online and offline.
- More can be done with open data, not only on budgets. The OD4T initiative is helpful for campaigning for budget transparency, not only for transparency of the local budget but also for other programs, such as allotment of village funds and disaster risk reduction programs.
- People want to know how and where government funds are used. The public discussion and launching of Open Data APBD Yogyakarta City increased the engagement between the local government and citizens for advocating and developing budget transparency practices. The initiative also gained interest from neighboring areas who want to partake in similar transparency projects and practices.







