iChallenge: Rationale and Results

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Overview

• Why did we launch the iChallenge?
• What ideas did we receive?
• What did we learn from the process?
Starting point

Indicators of the Strength of Public Management Systems (ISPMS)

- **5 criteria**
  - action-worthy
  - actionable
  - behavioral
  - replicable
  - feasible

- **5 public management systems**
  - public financial management
  - tax administration
  - procurement
  - public admin/civil service
  - public information

- **10 indicators**
The rationale

- Raise awareness of the need for good indicators
- Start a public conversation on what these indicators could look like
- Identify several indicators that could be piloted or scaled up.
The timeline and process (1)

Lasted

11 weeks
April 17 - July 1

Yielded

92 ideas
The timeline and process (2)

ISPMS Steering Group selected
**11 semi-finalists**
to refer to Evaluation Body

Evaluation Body selects
**3 finalists**
The entries (1)

97 submissions from 42 sources

92 indicators
5 comments

6 organizations
6 teams
30 individuals

40% academics

in 26 countries.
The entries (2)

21% of ENTRANTS SUBMITTED >1 INDICATOR.

Most prolific? Alexandru Roman: 27 indicators.

26% touch on TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY OR PARTICIPATION.
Selection criteria

- Focus on a public management system or cross-cutting theme of transparency, accountability or participation (12)
- Different from existing indicators (8)
- Behavioral (12)

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- Actionable (by governments)
- Action-worthy
- Replicable methodology
Lessons

• Meeting (and interpreting) the ISPMS criteria is very difficult

• Substantial grey areas for actionability and behavioral
  – (63% of submissions had at least 1 reviewer say that it didn’t meet the behavioral or actionability criteria)

• Action-worthy criteria weakly applied
  – Only 6 cited empirical evidence

• Expert surveys most prevalent
  – Admin data used by 26%
The Winners

1. Use of competitive procurement methods
   Federico Ortega

2. Budget Literacy Index
   Babacar Sarr and Maria Elkdhali

3. Responsiveness to online inquiries
   Alexandru Roman