



## Session 3

### Promoting Open and Transparent Government

#### How to help governments to:

- Build trust with citizens
- Foster transparency and openness, reaffirming the core values in the public sector
- Promote integrity in the interface between the public and private sectors

## Questions for discussion

- How can Ministers strengthen citizens' confidence in Government, foster greater transparency and openness? What are the key implications for public governance and the public sector?
- What are the challenges of greater citizen empowerment and engagement with civil society?
- How to strengthen and promote integrity in the public/private sector interface? How to reaffirm ethics and core values in the public sector?
- How can governments better address the expectation of an increasingly diverse population? How can the public sector be more inclusive and respond to shifting needs and demands ?
- What are the obstacles to maintaining and restoring trust? Is trust a long-term goal or a priority to start with?

## The challenges

- Building trust is always a work in progress. Trust represents an investment, as accumulated capital to invest in reforms
- A shared understanding of core values is necessary, but not sufficient, to produce trust
- Making things simple and transparent requires the will and the means to change the strategic focus of the public sector

## The tasks

- Establish strategic partnerships with the private sphere and civil society to build trust
- The core public sector values need to be reaffirmed and linked to policy implementation and outcomes
- Use all existing channels to foster true openness and transparency, including (but not limited to) ICT and web-based technologies
- Promote and implement culture change in the public sector with a client focus
- Foster integrity in public sector processes and ensure public scrutiny

## Building and maintaining trust is hard work!!

Mr. Pechtold, Minister for Government Reform and Kingdom Relations, The Netherlands.

**“Trust arrives on foot but leaves on horseback”**

Rotterdam, OECD Public Governance Ministerial Meeting 2005.

### Which tools for Open and Inclusive Policy Making?

The OECD released *Guiding Principles for Open and Inclusive Policy Making* in 2009. The goal is to broaden citizens’ influence, build civic capacity, while improving the evidence base for policy making, reducing implementation costs and tapping wider networks for innovation in policymaking and service deliver.

#### Are these meeting current/ future policy needs ?

**Commitment:** need for leadership at all levels

**Rights :** Citizens’ rights to consultation grounded in law.

**Clarity:** well defined objectives, clear roles and responsibilities, with easy to access information

**Time:** Public engagement early in the policy process

**Inclusion:** Giving citizens equal opportunities to access information, be consulted and participate.

**Resources:** Adequate resources for public information, consultation and participation.

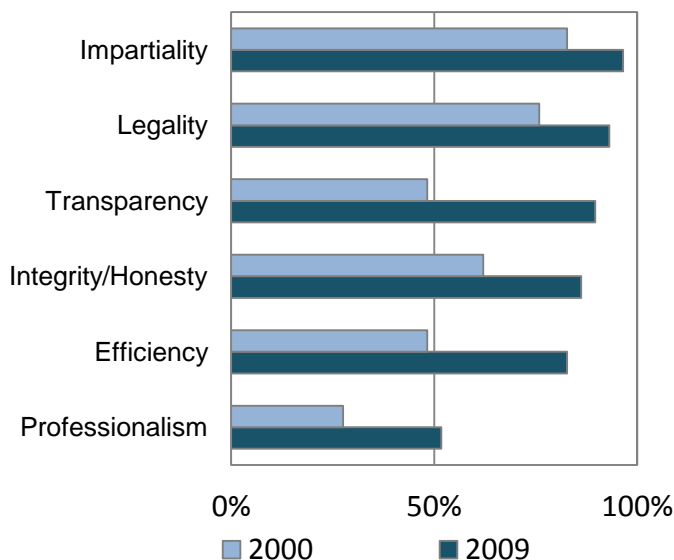
**Co-ordination:** within and across levels of government to ensure policy coherence and avoid duplication.

**Accountability:** Inform participants as to how their inputs will be used. Ensure open, and transparent processes.

**Evaluation:** build the demand, capacity, culture and tools for evaluating public participation

**Active citizenship:** benefit from dynamic civil society, raising awareness, and supporting autonomous problem-solving by citizens, CSOs and businesses.

### What are the core public sector values ?



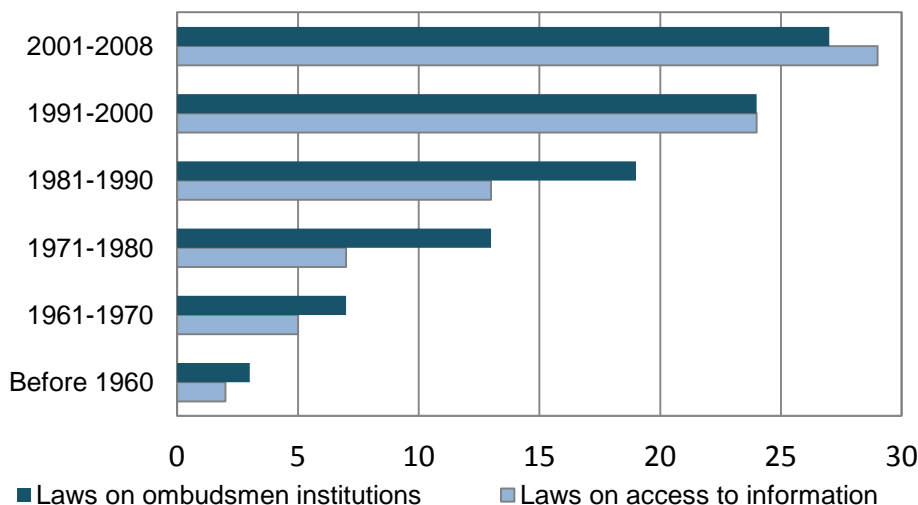
Percentage of the 29 countries that responded to both the 2000 and 2009 surveys

Source: *Government at a Glance 2009*

#### Address by US President Obama

“My Administration is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in government. We will work together to ensure the public trust and establish a system of transparency, public participation, and collaboration. Openness will strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in government.” *January 21, 2009*

### How many OECD countries have laws on access to information and ombudsman institutions?



Source: *Government at a Glance 2009*

#### Citizen Engagement: Rising to the Challenge

“Citizen Engagement is hard work: it is neither a panacea nor a romantic vision of the ideal citizen. Giving citizens a voice in the matters that affect them most will be central to future public sector reforms,”

**Jocelyne Bourgon,**  
PC, OC, Canada

**Italy: Public Administration as a Glass House**

"Public Administration appears today as it should always have been: a Glass House in which citizens have the right to look and verify how their money is being spent, may it be in a good or a bad way."

Report to the Parliament on the State of the Public Administration (2008) by Minister of Public Administration and Innovation, Renato Brunetta.

"Australia's Declaration of Open Government espouses three principles: informing, engaging and participating. "Without open access to public data, all three are very difficult to achieve", "Government information should be, where possible, free as in beer and free as in speech," "It should be available free of charge, and people should be able to share it freely...The economic value of government information can increase four-fold within a year if it is made freely available to public. Its social value could increase by even more."

**Peter Harper, Chief Operating Officer of Australia's Bureau of Statistics, member of Australia's Government 2.0 Taskforce which produced Australia's Declaration of Open Government in July (2010)**

<http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2010/aug/31/australias-open-govt-data-drive/>

**Address by Ms Kiviniemi, Prime Minister, Former Minister of public administration and local government at the launching seminar of the "OECD Public Governance Review of Finland"**

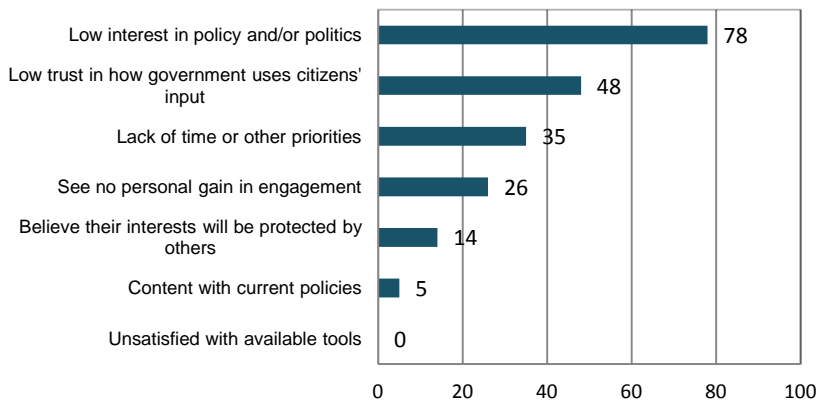
We need also a broad engagement strategy for the government as a whole. The challenges our country faces cannot be solved by administrative procedures, we need the collective will of the society, we need participation that gives people a proper role in problem solving. Therefore we need to create the enabling environment for stakeholder engagement by state government, including citizens, civil society organisations, businesses and local actors. 31st of May 2010, the House of the Estates. Helsinki

**Prime Minister David Cameron, Letter to Government departments on opening up data.**

"Greater transparency across Government is at the heart of our shared commitment to enable the public to hold politicians and public bodies to account; to reduce the deficit and deliver better value for money in public spending; and to realise significant economic benefits by enabling businesses and non-profit organisations to build innovative applications and websites using public data."

"The Government must set new standards for transparency, and our Coalition Programme for Government sets out a number of specific commitments. The Government's initial transparency commitments are set out below, alongside deadlines for publication. Limited exemptions on national security and personal privacy grounds will be permitted."

**Why don't people participate?**



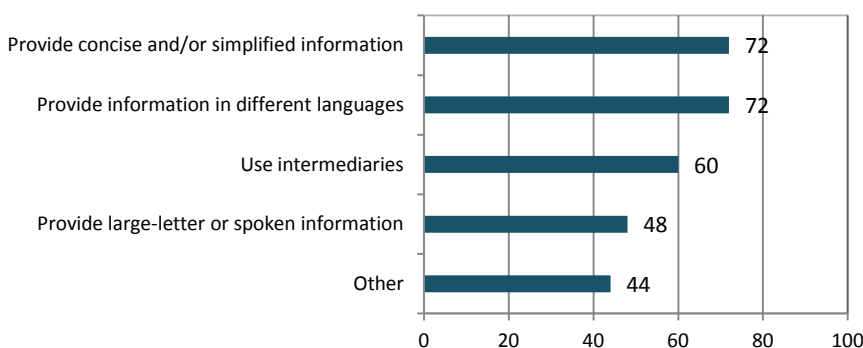
Source: Focus on Citizens, OECD 2009

**What is Cloud computing?**

Cloud computing is Internet-based computing, whereby shared resources, software and information are provided to computers and other devices on-demand, like electricity. It helps to drive down costs and make sure that technologies are made available to the workforce. It needs to be implemented horizontally to facilitate the streamlining of business processes and facilitate the diffusion of innovation.

**What can governments do about it?**

Measures to lower barriers for government information



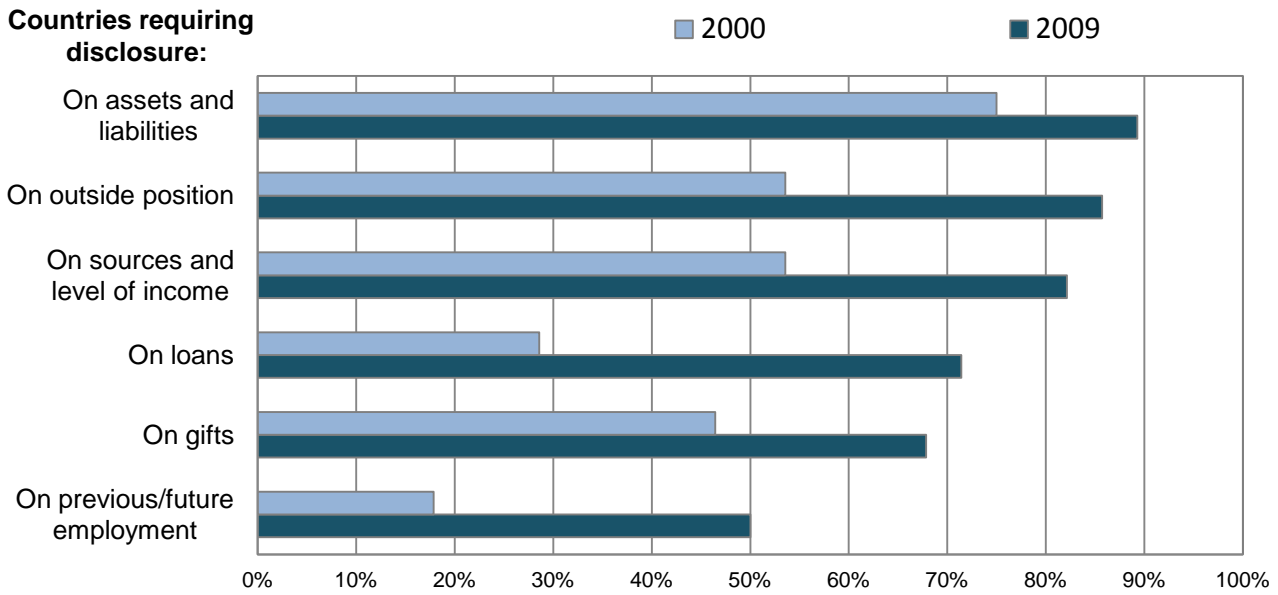
Source: Focus on Citizens, OECD 2009

**Promoting Open Government in the US**

In December 2009, the Office of Management and Budget released the Open Government Directive, instructing federal agencies to improve the quality of government information and to embrace a culture of open government. It lays out the vision for a transparent, participatory, and collaborative government. Agency leadership needs to commit to "changing the default," from closed government to a presumption of openness.

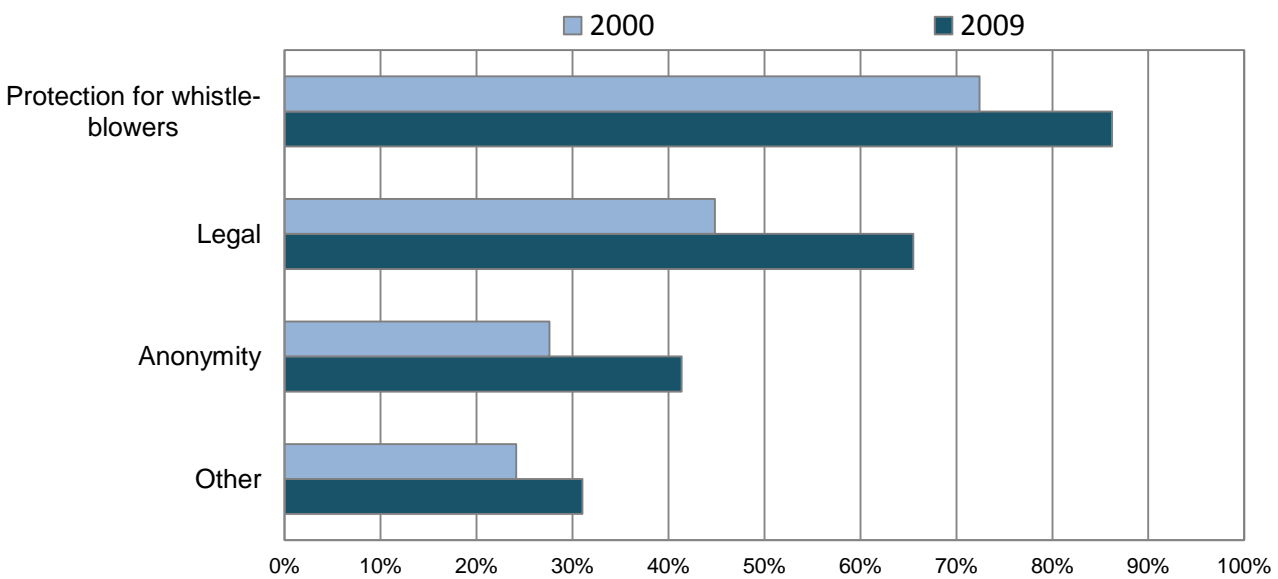
<http://techpresident.com>

### What percentage of countries require decision makers in the central government to disclose conflict of interest?



Percentage of the 28 OECD countries that responded to both the 2000 and 2009 surveys

### What percentage of countries offer protection for whistle blowers



Percentage of the 29 OECD countries that responded to both the 2000 and 2009 surveys

Source: Government at a Glance 2009