Study Tour on Data Policy Framework: insights from the Republic of Korea and Estonia

1-3 May 2023 in the Republic of Korea and 29-31 May 2023 in Estonia

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Frontier technologies carry a promise to fast track the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through supporting innovative, forwarding-looking policies and solutions. There are, however, risks and complexities of digital technologies that come along with those opportunities, including the widening digital divide as well as policy and regulatory challenges.

While technologies offer unprecedented opportunities for advancement of 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, the speed and complexity of technological development, increasingly sophisticated and pervasive nature of technologies, and the need to mitigate associated risks trigger policy and regulatory challenges for the governments. An innovative approach in establishing regulatory sandbox for policy experimentation at the edge or even outside of the existing regulatory framework can allow for live, time-bound testing of innovations under the government oversight, minimizing the risks and reducing the costs of technology adoption.

It is in this context that the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry in collaboration with the Astana International Financial Centre's (AIFC) Tech Hub are implementing a joint project on "The Use of New Technology Policy Experimentation and Regulatory Sandboxes for Digital Transformation in the Republic of Kazakhstan: A Pilot Initiative" (funded by Kazakhstan Trust Fund, project number S1-32XES-000170).

The objective of the project is to improve institutional capacity of public servants of Kazakhstan to design regulatory frameworks for experimental, technology-driven innovation maximizing the benefits and minimizing the risks of technological advancement for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Similar to many countries, Kazakhstan has been striving to strike the right balance between cautious regulatory inspection and promoting technology-driven innovation to achieve its maximum contributions to sustainable development while containing risks to the minimal. The past few years saw Kazakhstan adopting a nation-wide "Digital Kazakhstan" programme, which aims at improving the standard of living of every citizen through the use of digital technologies and creating conditions for digitalization with the use of cutting-edge technologies in energy, industry, education, and medicine, among others. Among priority areas of the program is creation of an innovation ecosystem with elements of Industry 4.0 (including but not limited to machine learning, artificial intelligence, big data, robotics, augmented and virtual reality). This requires much wider use of data and necessitates adjustments in Data Policy Framework in the country.

There are about 400 different databases in Kazakhstan roughly divided into two categories: from individuals (18.5 million people) and from legal entities (22 thousand legal entities). All data in

these databases is scattered and not standardized. To implement pilot programs, as well as structure existing data in geodatabase (GDB) formats, it is necessary to improve and clarify existing regulations and introduce new terms into definition of data.

Since data policy is the basis for adoption all the latest technologies, the government of Kazakhstan decided to develop a Concept of Data Policy aimed at achieving digital transformation, ensuring data quality, accelerating formation of data infrastructure and providing data transmission services for sustainable development of public services and business.

Specific recommendations of the Concept will become the basis for amendments to regulatory and legal acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Concept can be also implemented through various strategies, including through multilateral partnerships with private sector entities.

On 2-3 November 2022 the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry (MDDIAI), Tech Hub at Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) and UN DESA have organized the first national workshop on Data Policy under the pilot initiative focused on discussing barriers in existing institutional frameworks, standardization of data collection, adequacy of technical infrastructure and data storage capabilities, privacy and security of data, and digital literacy. The workshop participants also discussed opportunities and good examples of data policy frameworks from around the word, including from Singapore and Estonia, which can guide policy experimentation in Kazakhstan.

In response, UN DESA, is co-organising a study tour for the Kazakhstan country project team to visit Republic of Korea and Estonia. The study tour would include information sharing and presentations from respective government agencies and key players on areas of data policy framework.

Objectives
The objectives of the study tour are to:

(a) enhance awareness and facilitate learning of the Kazakhstan country project team from the experience of Republic of Korea and Estonia on the use of big data and data policy.

(b) develop the next course of actions for setting up a policy experimentation or regulatory sandbox framework for the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry in Kazakhstan.

Participants (By Invitation Only)
Invited participants will include representatives from the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry (MDDIAI) and National Information Technologies JSC (NIT), namely:

- H.E. Asset TURYSSOV, Vice-Minister of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry
- Mr. Rustem BIGARI, CEO of "Digital Government Support Centre" RSE on REM
- Mr. Andrey LIM, Head of Department Big Data, JSC National Information Technologies responsible for Big Data related issues.
- Ms. Ayazhan MUKANOVA, Director of international cooperation department, Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace industry

A Staff member from the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) will accompany the study tour.

Organizers

The study tour is co-organized by the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA/DPIDG), and the UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) and the government of the Republic of Korea for the study tour segment in Korea, and the government of Estonia and E-Government Academy of Estonia for the study tour segment in Estonia.

The draft programs for both segments of the study tour in Republic of Korea and Estonia are provided below.

Study Tour on Data Policy Framework for Kazakhstan: Insights from the Republic of Korea

Programme

1-3 May 2023

Time	Agency	Location
Day 1 (Monday, 1 May 2023)		
09:40-10:20	Depart Hotel	Seoul
10:20-12:00	**Meeting with the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS)**	Seoul (Government Complex)
12:00-13:30	Lunch	Seoul
14:00-15:30	**Visit to the Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC)**	Seoul (Government Complex)
16:00-17:00	**Visit to the Disaster and Safety Communications Network Operation Center**	Seoul (Government Complex)
Day 2 (Tuesday, 2 May 2023)		
10:00-10:30	Depart Hotel	Seoul
10:30-12:00	**Visit to SK Telecom**	Seoul
12:00-13:30	Lunch	Seoul
14:00-15:00	**Visit to the National Information Society Agency (NIA)**	Seoul
Day 3 (Wednesday, 3 May 2023)		
08:00-10:30	Depart Hotel and travel to Daejeon	Seoul-Daejeon
10:30-12:00	**Visit to the National Information Resources Service (NIRS)**	Daejeon
12:00-13:00	Lunch	Daejeon
13:00-14:30	**Visit to the Statistics Korea**	Daejeon (Government Complex)
14:30-17:00	Return to Seoul	Daejeon - Seoul