Knowledge of Budget Resources, Transparency of Information and Enthusiasm to Utilize Data at the Village Level

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

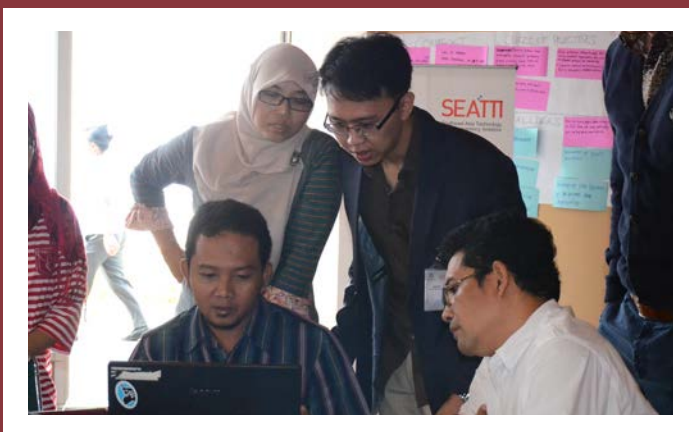Funding for this initiative is provided by the Southeast Asia Technology and Transparency Initiative

BACKGROUND

PATTIRO SURAKARTA focuses on budget advocacy, public services, assistance given to marginalized communities, as well as assistance given to other public bodies. Pattiro Surakarta always encourages transparency and good governance, and one of the ongoing efforts to promote this is to make the data on municipal infrastructure accessible to and understandable by the public.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

ACCESSING AND ANALYSING GOVERNMENT DATA	PUBLISHING INFRASTRUCTURE DATASET IN OPEN FORMAT	INSTITUTIONALIZING PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE	MORE TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT, BETTER INFORMED CITIZENS

Accessing the infrastructure data faced many challenges and obstacles, including the reluctance of the government to share information and the different data formats used by the government. Pattiro Surakarta was only able to undertake the first step of the project activities mentioned above.

On this page and behind: PATTIRO Surakarta together with other participants, mentors and the Open Data Lab Jakarta at the OD4T opening workshop

LESSONS LEARNED

- **One of open data's greatest constraints is the legal and procedural requirements related to citizen's access to government data.** Currently, the publication of infrastructure data in open formats has not yet been achieved, as it took a long while for Pattiro Surakarta to get the data from the Public Works agency because the matter had to be consulted with the Inspectorate and the Legal Division of Surakarta government.

- **Socialization activities on open data are necessary especially in contexts where openness is not the customary way of governance.** Aside from the local village governments (Tipes, Pajang, and Serengan), there were several government agencies who are interested in making data public. This commitment only arose when an open data training was held by the project.

- **Capacity building is necessary, not only to open data, but also to tackle the bureaucratic processes involved in the planning and utilization of government funds.** A good number of the officials are aware of the sources of the village budget and revenue, but there were also some who did not know one of, or both these information.This situation is worse on the part of the citizens who may not have access to this data. Research respondents considered development planning data to be their priority need, including the type of planning done, location of projects, and deviations from the plan.