EITI Data Strategy development concept note

Catalyzing the EITI’s digital transformation

Building on the EITI Board-approved EITI Strategic Priorities 2021-2022 paper on supporting open data, the International Secretariat has launched a process for developing an EITI Data Strategy over the next four months (September-January 2023). The development of the strategy is to be consultative and inclusive, led by demand, and based on the mapping of key audience data needs and access preferences. The objective of the consultations is to inform the strategy.

The EITI Standard is the global benchmark for transparency and accountability in the energy & extractive industries. Data use sits at the core of the EITI’s assumptions on how transparency is expected to translate into improvements in accountability. Building on the EITI Board’s strategic priority on open data, the vision and objectives underpinning the proposed EITI Data Strategy touch on three interrelated aspects of open data: data generation, accessibility, and use.

- **Data use**: catalyse key audiences’ regular use of energy & extractive data for strategic purposes.
- **Data accessibility**: improve the quality and public availability of structured open data that meets key audiences’ needs and access preferences.
- **Data generation**: Catalyse timely disclosure of information required by the EITI at source in policy and practice, aligned with national priorities.

There are four types of data produced by the EITI at the national and international levels:

- **Structured open data, 58 countries.** Government extractive revenues by revenue flow, company and (increasingly) by project. Production & export data. On EITI Open Data.
- **Unstructured non-financial data** Licensing, fiscal terms, ownership, state participation, social and environmental payments, revenue management.
- **Government and company data** Routine disclosures by government and companies of data required by the EITI, of varying levels of openness and reliability.
- **EITI Validation data** Database of 98 individual country Validation results since 2016, with individual assessments and summaries of findings per EITI Requirement.
Key questions for consultations

- What energy and extractives data related questions are you seeking to answer? Do your organization’s data needs align with the EITI’s data offerings? Do you see any areas for potential future alignment?

Open extractives data use

- What is your organization's main source of extractives and energy data? What are the key features of that platform that your organization values?

- Who do you see as key (current or potential) users and audiences for open-source energy and extractives data? Within your industry, what different sub-sets of energy and extractives data users exist?

- Could you share examples of cases where EITI data on the upstream energy and extractives sector has been used to achieve specific objectives? What types of energy and extractives data are of greatest interest to whom? What use cases should the EITI prioritise in its Data Strategy?

EITI data accessibility

- What kind of information related to the energy & extractive industries do you wish you had more accessible? How would you like to be able to access that information?

- Are there particular tools for facilitating access to extractive industry data that would help you? What tools could the EITI develop to support analysis of open extractive industry data?

- Has your organization ever used data produced by the EITI in your projects? What was your experience in finding and accessing the data you used?

Timelier disclosures at source

- What information on the energy & extractive industries do you consider to be relatively easy for governments and companies to disclose, and why? What information is more challenging to disclose, and why?

- What do you see as the key technical constraints to government entities and extractives companies systematically publishing more data on the upstream mining and petroleum value chains and government revenues? How could the EITI help overcome these?

- What do you think the EITI as an organization should be doing better concerning disclosures and open data? What is working well and what shouldn’t change?
Current & potential audiences for EITI data
To be further segmented and prioritised in consultations, with primary and secondary audiences.

Government entities such as Ministries of Finance, Treasuries, Central Banks, Ministries of Mining, Petroleum, Environment, Supreme Audit Institutions, National Statistics Organisations, Customs, Parliaments and others produce data required by the EITI. They constitute a natural audience for open energy & extractives data.

Extractive companies including those operating or studying opportunities in EITI countries, ESG investors and their advisors, asset management companies, credit ratings agencies, shareholder advisory services, commercial banks have varying and distinct current and potential interests in open energy & extractives data.

Different types of media from general news journalists to specialized extractives reporters, investigative journalists, data reporters, media development organisations, regional and national media organisations have varying interests in open energy & extractives data and preferences of access tools. The Data Strategy will seek to segment and prioritize different media audiences.

There are important differences in the types and levels of interests in open energy & extractives data across different geographic regions and types of civil society organisations, including between national and community-based organisations among others.

International civil society is heterogeneous in nature and data needs, ranging from standard-setting non-governmental and quasi-multilateral bodies to NGOs focused on tax justice, anti-corruption, environment and human rights, research-focused organisations, and advocacy campaigns among others.

Researchers such as think tanks, thematic university centres and university students focused on energy & extractive industries, fiscal studies, integrity & corruption, energy transition, social & environmental studies, corporate governance, have differing interests and needs in open energy & extractives data.

Development partners and donors constitute a natural audience for open energy & extractives and other EITI data, with important differences between international organisations, international financial institutions, bilateral donors, government technical assistance providers, foundations and their respective consultants.

EITI office-holders including National Secretariats, MSG members, International Secretariat staff, EITI Board members and their support staff are key users of open energy & extractives data as well as other data on the EITI's international administration, with varying levels of interest and access.
The EITI Data Strategy is intended to cover the period 2023-2025. The development of the Data Strategy is planned to conclude at the EITI Board’s 55th meeting in Buenos Aires on 1-2 March 2023. The following is an overview of the development timeline:

Stakeholders are invited to contact data@eiti.org to provide responses and comments on the questions, key audiences, objectives and/or vision outline in this document. Stakeholder input will feed into the development of the EITI Data Strategy.