



September 27, 2023

RE: Encouraging US Participation in OECD Public Trust Survey

Director Young & Deputy Director for Management Miller --

Today the Partnership for Public Service hosted an excellent summit on public trust in government. The summit provided some inspirational moments for those of us who are former civil servants – working alongside your teams in the public sector. Last year, my organization had the opportunity to join peers from U.S. civil society at the OECD Global Forum on building trust and reinforcing democracy in Luxembourg. In that discussion there were other inspirational moments about strategies for improving trust using data, applying evidence, and focusing on improved customer experiences. But today, and then, there was a glaring omission in the dialogues, which was the U.S.'s lack of participation in the OECD survey of public trust to report comparable baseline information. Fortunately, we learned the OECD is repeating the survey with anticipated results to be published in 2024 meaning this can be remedied.

As part of the President's commitment to evidence-based decision-making and the use of information in our society (Jan 27, 2021 memo), it seems that having the information provided in the OECD context and the comparability across nations is uniquely valuable for our democratic institution-building activities in the years ahead. **On behalf of the Data Foundation and the members of our Data Coalition, I strongly encourage OMB to facilitate U.S. participation in the OECD trust survey for 2023-2024.**

Knowing that the U.S. is now a party to the OECD ministerial declaration on public trust and reinforcing democracy, the U.S. chairs the public governance committee for the OECD, and the OMB recently published a draft rule on public trust in data required by the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act (Evidence Act), participating in the international survey of public trust led by the OECD is a natural alignment to other activities that are already underway. I hope you will agree that the U.S. leadership in this area is critical, including as data laws like the Evidence Act and the Biden Administration EO on CX serve as models for other countries to learn from in addressing key pillars of the OECD declaration.

Thank you for your consideration.

--Nick

Nick Hart, Ph.D.
President & CEO, Data Foundation
Fellow, National Academy of Public Administration