

# POLICY PULSE

## Egypt's New Open Data Policy

### What It Means ?

Egypt approved its first National Open Data Policy in August 2025, serving as a transitional framework ahead of the forthcoming Data Governance Law. The policy, overseen initially by the National Council for Artificial Intelligence (NCAI), establishes principles like “open by default” (for non-sensitive datasets), free-of-charge access, Arabic/English metadata, quality standards, and a single national portal ([data.gov.eg](http://data.gov.eg)) with APIs and bulk downloads.

It also sets up interim governance (an Inter-agency Data Release Board), mandates Chief Open Data Officers across ministries, and adopts permissive licenses (e.g., CC-BY/ODC-BY). Once the Data Governance Law and the Egyptian Data Governance Authority (EDGA) are in force, they will assume stewardship.

The policy entered into effect in August 2025 and was publicly confirmed in early September 2025 as a precursor to the Data Governance Law.

### Impact on global players

- **Multinationals & investors:** Lower discovery costs for market entry (e.g., sector statistics, permits, geospatial layers) and clearer policy signals around data governance and reuse.
- **Development partners & IFIs:** Easier integration of official datasets in program design, M&E, climate and social safeguards, and performance-based financing.
- **Researchers & standards bodies:** Compatibility with DCAT-AP metadata and CC-BY licensing supports global interoperability and reuse at scale.
- **Comparative standing:** ODIN/other indices can more accurately reflect Egypt's openness as high-value series (national accounts, prices, environment, sub-national) improve in accessibility and timeliness.

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## Why does this matter to Egypt?

- **Growth & jobs:** Open data reduces barriers for startups and SMEs in logistics, fintech, agri-tech, health, and tourism—fueling private-sector innovation and employment.
- **Trust & accountability:** Publishing machine-readable, timely datasets (with feedback loops) strengthens evidence-based policy and public oversight.
- **Service quality:** Better data sharing across agencies improves targeting in social programs, urban planning, transport, and disaster response.
- **International alignment:** The policy references global norms (Open Data Charter/OGP) and dovetails with Digital Egypt and SDGs—important for donor coordination and performance benchmarking.

## Unlocking Opportunity

Egypt's New Open Data Policy and forthcoming Data Governance Law present a transformative opportunity for international businesses by creating a transparent, data-driven operating environment aligned with global standards.

The opening of public datasets enables deeper market analysis, precision in customer targeting, and smarter investment decisions across sectors such as logistics, fintech, healthcare, and agriculture. Companies can forge innovation partnerships with the government, leverage open data to develop localized digital solutions, and position themselves as early adopters in a maturing regulatory landscape.

The reforms are expected to fuel demand for cloud services, data infrastructure, compliance tools, and analytics platforms, offering both market expansion and new service lines. Egypt's growing digital workforce and regional connectivity further enhance its potential as a hub for cross-border data operations.

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## Opportunities

- **Economic competitiveness:** Prioritize high-demand commercial datasets (trade, customs time series, freight corridors, energy demand, land-use, tourism flows) to lower transaction costs for investors.
- **Public finance transparency:** Release structured budget execution, procurement, and subsidy data to enhance fiscal credibility and support reform narratives. (Aligns with global donor expectations.)
- **Sub-national insights:** Governorate-level health, education, transport, and labor data enables targeted local development and PPP pipelines.

## Challenges

- **Transition Period Uncertainty:** While the Open Data Policy is effective, the Data Governance Law is still under review. Interim uncertainty may exist regarding certain regulatory details.
- **Institutional Readiness:** Some public entities may lack the infrastructure or expertise to fully implement open data and governance practices.
- **Interoperability Issues:** Integrating government data with private sector systems may require technical adaptation and standardization.

## Call For Action

To capitalize on Egypt's transition toward open data and structured data governance, international businesses and investors should take proactive steps to align with the evolving regulatory landscape.

This includes closely monitoring the development and rollout of the forthcoming Data Governance Law to ensure operational readiness and compliance.

Companies also should conduct internal audits of their data collection, processing, storage, and sharing practices to identify gaps and opportunities.

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