Thank you.

It is a great honor to be here as a representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

We are willing of sharing our experiences. Our Country Office with the director Dr. Lange promote the principles for sustainable economic and social order, development in the region and close cooperation between christen democrats in the both countries.

Before going into details I would like to quote two definitions. What is Open Data: *Open data is data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone - subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and share alike.*

It means, unless there is some objective justification not to publish certain data, data must be open.

OECD defines **Open Government** *as "a culture of governance based on innovative and sustainable public policies […] inspired by the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation that fosters democracy and inclusive growth."*

Why openness in politics matter like never before? Best answer in my view gives *Frans Timmermans, Vice President EU Commission. He says*

„We're in a 'show me' society. People want to see what we do on a daily basis, and if we don't adapt our political systems to that, there will be a temptation to go for the alternative of pandering to lies and half truths as a means of gaining political control, as is happening too often in societies today"

That means Government data is a record of what's happened, of what is, how our society performs.

Open Data as a part of Open Government is connected to economic growth, but also to **government accountability, transparency** and **trust in the politics.**

I've been asked in the past many times, how come that Adenauer Foundation work so dedicated on this issues and what's the reason behind. There are SEVERAL reasons for it:

Firstly, we are political foundation and we would like to increase the transparency and trust in the politics. By opening STATE datasets we show why we take or don't take certain decisions and where, why, and how the state does spent the taxpayer's money.

Secondly, we believe that by opening data we can improve our business environment, especially for startups and for innovative ideas.

Thirdly, being convinced and impressed by the idea of openness, we are not satisfied how we perform in this field. We have great statistics and figures in many, many fields, but they have been used only be the respective departments. We want to unlock its value for the citizens, for the economy, for the rest of the administration. We want to place Open Government much higher on the political agenda of Chancellor Angela Merkel and want improved legal framework for data publishing in Germany.

And forthly, we consider our open data policy as important part of the modernisation of our public administration. Data must flow within the administration not the citizen.

Now, I'm not going to talk about the open data principles of the Sunlight Foundation. It's good to have them as a part of the law that has a binding character. Not part of some guidelines, since it seldom works.

I'm invited to speak about our approach on Open Government and I don't want to miss the chance to present to you our general vision and expectation behind open data.

These are our products:

1. A study calculating the macro-economic potential of Open Data for Germany. 2. Then the Open Data booklet, describing what is open data, how to implement it and practically describing some products relying on open data. 3. And our probably most important product, written on two pages: our policy recommendation on the German government – also publicly communicated.

The estimation of the economic potential of open data in Germany is based on a large set of existing studies. We examined what Germany can realistically

achieve over the next ten years and presented different scenarios for moving towards a national open data ecosystem. Which of the scenarios will ultimately be achieved depends mainly on the political will to shape the necessary framework conditions.

In the ambitious scenario, a potential of 43.1 bn EUR p.a. is realistic. To achieve this, Germany would need to follow a proactive strategy (open by default). Currently we have 1.6bn EUR and you can see the difference. The aim is to increase the benefits through an additional opening of business data and hence, catch up internationally. Up to 20,000 new jobs could be created under this scenario.

Governance and Collaboration.

Innovation and Sustainable Development.

Education and Participation.

Transparency and Trust are the four pillars of the Ecosystem in our perception.

Open Government and Open Data is a whole new era of challenging policy and political questions. It is about a new understanding of the relationship among the state, the citizens, the economy, the association, the science. Today we cannot claim that Germany has the most open and transparent government in the world. But we have a credible and uncorrupted administration and that's a solid basis properly to implement an open government policy.

So today I want to set out some guiding principles on Open gov data, based on the lessons that we have learnt and where we can go next.

Open data is a leadership issue. The message must come from the top and on the lasting basis. Therefore you have to have someone on the leading position in your government claiming effectively responsibility for this issue. It makes a difference when you say: I'm calling on behalf of the president…

Clear legal basis for publishing public information. Freedom of information act and Law on re-use of public service information are good basis. However, the obligation for pro-actively publishing of data is a crucial aspect. The same in respect to the machine readable formats of the published data sets. Upon Our recommendation the open by default approach for raw data collected by the federal agencies passed the Parliament in May 2017.

Quantity and quality of data does matter. The more good quality data you published, the soon you gain the momentum. There is no reason and no justification for not publishing data that has already served as a basis for taking a decision. One may think, no one would be interested in crime figures or transport data. However people use it for all sort of legitimate reasons: is this a good place for my bicycle, or for my vehicle. You can have great visualization that can help even your own police to deal their job better. Here is an example from UK mapping the criminal incidents in various part of the city. You can chose among different categories: criminal damage, anti-social behavior, theft, robbery violent crime.

The most exciting things about open data are the innovations you can't foresee. Another example is….

Data literacy of our administration is where we would like to go further. Our administration must be a better user of the resources it poses. I intentionality say "data it poses" since there is no governmental data, there is only data that is in possession of the government and belongs to all citizens. That's the cultural change we have to face in Germany.

Having a Strategy on Open Government and Access to Public Information and Action Plan is an important step. However, you have to have the political willingness to push this project and enough human resources for it.

So let my end with a message I've heard from the British cabinet office chef, saying: Open government means accepting that we don't have all the answers, but you can put data and power in the hands of people who might.

I fully agree with him and I hope we can work together in the Framework of the Open Government Partnership. Because this is a chance to change the way we do government.