

# Update series: Strategic Plan 2020-2025

## Reinvigorating IATI's Community September 2021



Welcome to the fourth in a series of factsheets from IATI's Secretariat providing IATI's members and community with updates on progress against different objectives of [IATI Strategic Plan 2020-2025 \(ES / FR\)](#).

Four factsheets have been created to outline key progress since the beginning of 2020 in implementing IATI's five year Strategic Plan:

**Factsheet #1: Improving the quality of IATI data**

**Factsheet #2: Enabling the use of IATI data**

**Factsheet #3: Strengthening IATI technical infrastructure, tools and services**

**Factsheet #4: Reinvigorating IATI's Community**



## Factsheet #4: Reinventing IATI's Community

### Progress on improving the quality of IATI data

As acknowledged in its [2020 Annual Report](#), IATI is much more than numbers and data. At the heart of the initiative is our vibrant community of publishers and users of IATI data, technical experts who are contributing to maintaining the integrity and functionality of IATI's tools, and a robust network of open data experts, transparency advocates and more.

This section provides an overview of progress made towards achieving the Strategic Plan's final objective:

*Reinvigorating IATI's community of publishers and members.*

### ► Launch of a Digital Community Platform - IATI Connect

To realise IATI's ambitious goals as laid out in the Strategic Plan, and to continue improving the quality and use of IATI data worldwide, input and buy-in from a strong, diverse and engaged global community of open data and transparency practitioners is crucial. To respond to the needs of a rapidly growing and diversifying community, on 30 November 2020, IATI launched a new digital community platform: [IATI Connect](#).

On this platform all members of the 'IATI orbit' are invited to learn, share and engage on key aid transparency and data questions. During its first few months the platform has seen rapid growth: both the number of accounts and unique log-ins has tripled since its launch in November 2020<sup>1</sup>.

IATI Connect offers a space to nearly 1000 users and 14 dedicated Community Groups covering a wide range of thematic areas. By joining the platform our users can:



**Exchange valuable resources**, share best practices and ask questions on aid transparency and IATI data;



**Engage with peers** in the open data and transparency fields and provide feedback through inclusive and interactive discussions;



**Keep up-to-date** with the latest relevant updates and events, both internal and external. IATI Connect offers dedicated spaces for our users to collect information on future or past community-activities, or engage in interactive discussions ahead of upcoming events. See for example [IATI's Virtual Community Exchange-page](#).

<sup>1</sup>Social KPI Analytics: from November 2020: 285 accounts / 82 unique log-ins, to June 2021: 825 accounts / 236 unique log-ins.



## Factsheet #4: Revigorating IATI's Community

Check out some highlighted discussions or resources shared on IATI Connect so far:

- Useful overviews, such as availability of different [IATI Data Access Tools](#);
- Technical updates useful for publishers, for example [changes to OECD DAC codelist](#);
- A recap of past events, such as our [Virtual Community Exchange](#);
- Consultations and Discussions on IATI's evolution and growth, for example the [IATI Standard Traceability Guidance](#) and the [Data Quality Index Consultation](#).
- Updates on any new releases on IATI Connect, like the [Data Use Query Corner](#) or our new co-editing tool [Connect Collaborate](#).

Members and new users can learn more about IATI Connect via the [About page](#) or [FAQs](#), stay up-to-date via our monthly [Snapshot newsletters](#) and watch the IATI Connect Stories-vlogs from community members [here](#).

### ➤ Virtual Community Exchange I

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic caused the most serious global economic and health crisis in over a century. The organisation of in-person events was halted in the wider global landscape, including for IATI. During these challenging times IATI's community showed resilience and flexibility with a move towards virtual tools and events. We remain committed to bridging the gap during the periods between face-to-face events in order to maintain high community engagement.

On April 13 2021 IATI hosted its first ever [Virtual Community Exchange \(VCE\)](#). With a record-breaking total of 398 attendees, 15 interactive sessions catered to all members of the community, while participants ranged from newbies to IATI experts. With positive survey feedback, and an average session rating of 9.7 out of 10, we believe members saw this first VCE as a success. IATI's second VCE will take place on 12 and 13 October, and is being designed to take account of the good feedback from VCE I; stay tuned on IATI Connect for more information via this [VCE-page](#).

In case you missed VCE I, or would like to rewatch the sessions, you can access all presentations and video recordings via [this VCE recap](#). Discover the wide variety of VCE-sessions, such as technical updates [on IATI's new integrated platform](#) a [Publishing 101-session](#), or explore how IATI data was used to track COVID-19 spending via [this recap-page](#).



# Factsheet #4: Reinvigorating IATI's Community

## What's coming up?

IATI continually reviews and optimises its work to help reinvigorate the IATI community. In 2021 the following highlighted community activities will build on foundations laid in 2020:



### IATI Data Quality Index Consultation

IATI's Data Quality index consultation will be taking place on IATI Connect from September 2021. We invite all our community members to join and participate in this important piece of work in agreeing what good quality IATI data looks like. For further details, stay tuned for more updates on IATI Connect via [this page](#).



### Virtual Community Exchange II (VCE) - 12 / 13 October 2021

On October 12 and 13 IATI will host the second VCE to bring together the global IATI community. The VCE is an informal, interactive and community-driven event focusing on providing opportunities for shared learning based on practical experiences in engaging with IATI data. While this second edition of the VCE will build on the groundworks set by the VCE in April, it will also offer dedicated spaces primarily for more technically-focused topics. Stay tuned for more information, including the possibility for submitting your session-proposal, via [this VCE-page](#) on IATI Connect.

## ► Optimisations IATI Connect

We keep optimising the usability of our community platform, IATI Connect. We do this for example by providing support for the launch of new Groups, creating customised dashboards, such as the [Data Use Query Corner](#), or releasing new extensions such as the recent new co-editing tool ([Connect Collaborate](#)).

- In September we expect to launch a new extension on IATI Connect that allows for cross-posting between different Groups: Cross Connect. This extension would enable us to create discussions or organise events across different communities that are active on the platform.
- In the coming months we will source your feedback on how to further improve the platform. Based on your input we will work on concrete optimisations so that IATI Connect remains user-friendly and becomes the rallying point for anybody interested in transparency and open data. Stay tuned for more information on this call for feedback via the main homepage of [IATI Connect](#), and an announcement in our [Monthly Snapshots](#).



## Factsheet #4: Reinvigorating IATI's Community

### ► How to get involved

Here are just some of the activities you can participate in that will contribute to reinvigorating the wider IATI Community:

- ✓ [Sign up to IATI Connect](#), join one of our [virtual Communities](#) and start engaging with peers on our community platform;
- ✓ Get support in launching your own Group on Connect by contacting us via [connect@iatistandard.org](mailto:connect@iatistandard.org);

### ► We're here to help

To get additional support please:

- ✓ Join the [Newbies Corner](#) on IATI Connect for all your IATI (Connect) questions;
- ✓ Access any of our translated guidance materials on IATI Connect via the [About-page](#) or [FAQs](#);
- ✓ Or send us a message via [connect@iatistandard.org](mailto:connect@iatistandard.org).

## Reach out and connect

As always, please reach out to us for support via the IATI Helpdesk:  
email: [support@iatistandard.org](mailto:support@iatistandard.org)

