

FAQ - IATI's Communities of Practice and *IATI Connect*

What are IATI's new Communities of Practice (COPs)?

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)'s newly-established COPs are open and freely accessible communities around standing areas of thematic interest to the IATI community – initially, these will be Data Use, Data Publishing and Technical IATI issues. With the help of the Community Facilitator, a member of the IATI Secretariat, the membership of the COPs will decide on the design, future activities and key focus areas for each COP.

Why should I join a COP?

Participating in an IATI COP allows you to share your expertise and exchange views with peers in the open data and transparency fields on issues you care about most. Furthermore, you can expand your professional network with other data publishers and users, transparency advocates, open data experts and technical specialists. You may also help shape the future of IATI, for instance through participating in online consultations and/or by participating in IATI's Annual Community Event where the results of each COP will be showcased to a wider open data / transparency audience.

What is IATI's *Connect* platform?

Together with the COPs, IATI will be launching a new digital community platform: IATI Connect. This user-friendly platform will ensure knowledge is available and preserved, while promoting shared learning and deepen engagement among its users. It will also provide a safe space for brainstorming and experimentation. The platform will officially launch on 30 November along with the IATI COPs. A virtual launch event will take place on this day – registration is now open [here](#).

What kind of features will IATI Connect offer me?

IATI Connect will be a multi-functional platform that allows users to engage with peers in a multitude of ways. At launch, IATI Connect will already contain spaces for all IATI COPs, multiple e-discussions and consultations, relevant upcoming events and a Resource Library where you can easily find guidelines, publications or webinars and training videos on IATI and other transparency issues. The platform is freely accessible by anyone with internet access. It provides automatic translation into 100+ languages and is mobile-friendly even with low bandwidth.

What will happen to Discuss (the previous IATI digital platform)?

All content (lived and archived) will be transferred to IATI Connect and current users of Discuss will smoothly transition with as little change to their user-experience as possible.

How can I join the COPs and / or register for the Platform? Do I need to be a member of IATI?

You do not have to be a member of IATI to join a COP or the Connect-platform. The COPs and platform are open to anyone,

How do these COPs differ from IATI's Working Groups?

COPs are ongoing, informal communities with a focus on shared learning, experimentation and increased engagement. The design of the COP (such as focus areas or future activities) is determined by the COP membership itself. This clearly contrasts with IATI's new Working Group structure, which has very specific and time-bound advisory tasks and are mandated by either IATI Members' Assembly or IATI Governing Board.

When are you launching the COPs and IATI Connect?

Both the COPs and IATI Connect will be launched Monday 30th of November 2020 at 14:00-15:30 GMT. Please [register here](#) for this free virtual event.

For additional information on IATI's Communities of Practice and / or IATI Connect, please send an e-mail to IATI's Community Facilitator: sander.hees@undp.org.