**Beneficial ownership disclosure for investigative reporting and data-driven advocacy in Ghana**

Capacity-building sessions for CSOs and journalists

The workshop aims to bring together CSOs and journalists to raise awareness on the existence and importance of quality and timely beneficial ownership data, and share skills, tools and methodologies to analyse and use this data. The rationale is to strengthen capacities amongst journalists, civil society organisations and active citizens to analyse and utilise beneficial ownership data to improve natural resources advocacy and governance in Ghana.

The workshop is organised by the [Opening Extractives programme](about:blank), jointly delivered by the Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and Open Ownership, in collaboration with the [Ghana’s Registrar General’s Department](about:blank) and the Ghana Opening Extractives National Steering Committee.

**Agenda**

The training will be delivered in-person between 21-24 February 2022 in the [Hill View Guest Centre,](about:blank) located at Obibini Junction, on the Teiman-Abokobi road, Accra.

* **Day 1 (Feb 21): Introduction to the concept of Beneficial Ownership Disclosure**

This session is intended to:

* provide a general introduction to beneficial ownership (BO);
* discuss current policies and practices;
* give participants an understanding of BO disclosure and the underlying reasons for the global wave of increased BO disclosure; and
* discover participants’ interests, challenges and past work with BO.

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| **Time** | **Content** | **Speaker** |
| 9.00 to 9.30 | **Participants arrival at the venue** | - |
| 9.30 to 10.20 | **Welcome of participants and opening remarks**  Introduction of the Opening Extractives Programme, the capacity-building sessions, expected outcomes and agenda of the day.   * Ms Jemima Oware, Registrar General of Ghana * Dr Steve Manteaw, Group co-chair, Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC) and Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Ghana * Thom Townsend, Executive Director, Open Ownership |  |
| 10.20 to 10.50 | **Participants’ introduction and icebreakers**  Facilitated by the Opening Extractives team, participants will introduce each other, and share expectations for the workshop ahead. | Facilitated by the OE Team |
| **Break (10 min)** | | |
| 11.00 to 12.15 | **Introduction to beneficial ownership: Part I**  Overview of the key concept of beneficial ownership, global frameworks and national actions, progress and relevance (definitions, legal and beneficial ownership, ownership structures, the role of politically exposed persons, etc). | Open Ownership |
| **Lunch break (75 minutes)** | | |
| 13.30 to 14.45 | **Introduction to beneficial ownership - Part II**  Presentation of existing global frameworks and the link between beneficial ownership and the extractives sector (Open Ownership principles, the Beneficial Ownership Data Standard, EITI beneficial ownership requirement) | Open Ownership and EITI |
| 14.45 to 15.30 | **Opaque ownership structures and revenue leakage: understanding the transnational challenge**  Delve deeper into the challenge of opaque corporate structures and demonstrate practical examples of how such complex layers of hidden ownership obstructs transparency and accountability and aids illicit financial flows, corrupt practices, tax evasion and ultimately revenue leakages | Samuel Osei Bekoe, Economist and governance expert, OE programme consultant |
| **Break (15 min)** | | |
| 15.45 to 16.45 | **Explore participants’ interests**  Through a facilitated exercise, we will explore participants' knowledge, past work in the topic and interests in working with companies’ ownership information. | Facilitated by Open Ownership |
| 16.45 to 17.00 | **Closing and intro to day 2** |  |

**Day 2 (Feb 22): Understanding complex and opaque ownership structures and Ghana’s efforts towards beneficial ownership transparency**

This session will:

* provide insights on Ghana’s efforts to implement BO transparency regulation;
* explore the current practical challenges for its implementation;
* learn and understand how to work with simple and complex businesses ownership structures;
* present the fundamentals of investigative reporting and explore data-based advocacy; and
* show participants how to pitch a story to the media, and tips for successful storytelling.

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| **Time** | **Content** | **Speaker** |
| 9.00 to 9.30 | **Participants arrive at the venue and icebreaker** |  |
| 9.30 to 10.30 | **Institutionalising a beneficial ownership transparency regime in Ghana**  Presentation of Ghana’s journey and state of play on beneficial ownership reforms and legal framework | Ghana’s Registrar General Department |
| 10.30 to 11.30 | **Grounding Ghana’s context: analysing simple and complex ownership chains**  Group work and exercises for participants to understand how ownership structures work and operate in Ghana and the world. | Open Ownership and Samuel Osei Bekoe |
| **Break (15 min)** | | |
| 11.45 to 12.45 | **Fundamentals of investigative reporting and CSO data-driven research** | Emmanuel Dogbevi  Lisa Capris, TI Accountable Mining Programme |
| **Lunch break (75 minutes)** | | |
| 14.00 to 15.25 | **Techniques for investigative reporting and data-based advocacy research**   * Features, commentaries, editorials and explainers. * Pitching a story: look at an issue, consider its importance, see what to address in a report, who to interview, primary or sec sources to consult, etc. * Storytelling and visualising data * Tips for using social media | Emmanuel Dogbevi |
| **Break (10 min)** | | |
| 15.35 to 16.45 | **From theory to practice: how investigations were conducted**  Sharing the Atuabo Gas advocacy research and the contracts for Sale’ Exposé investigation. | Dr Steve Manteaw, MSG co-chair, ISODEC, PWYP  Manasseh Azure |
| 16.30 to 17.00 | **Closing remarks**  Recap of content reviewed the past two days, introduce Day 3 and answer questions |  |

**Day 3 (Feb 23): Accessing and using beneficial ownership data**

This session will:

* cement knowledge gained through practical exercises on how the Ghanian BO system works, and what information can be found through Ghana’s Registrar General’s information system;
* introduce further data sources where useful information can be found for complementary analysis;
* present varied research methodologies, techniques, and tools that can be used for data gathering and analysis; and
* explore legal and ethical considerations one should consider when investigating BO information, from freedom of expression and access to information, to whistleblowing, protecting one’s source, and avoiding libel and defamation.

This session will be led by Emmanuel K. Dogbevi, a renowned journalist working in Ghana Business News and NewsBridge Africa.

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| **Time** | **Content** | **Speaker** |
| 9.00 to 9.30 | **Participants arrive at the venue and icebreaker** |  |
| 9.30 to 11.15 | **Investigation Masterclass: how to conduct successful research**   * How the Pandora Papers and West Africa Leaks were conducted and how the Ghana story was written * What techniques were used in undertaking the contracts for Sale’ Exposé | Emmanuel Dogbevi  Manasseh Azure Awuni |
| **Break (15 min)** | | |
| 11.30 to 12.30 | **Sourcing data (Part 1) - Ghana’s beneficial ownership register**  Navigate the central BO register through a visual demonstration of the portal, request for data form and examples of data outputs. | Domtie Sarpong,  RGD / Doris |
| **Lunch break (75 min)** | | |
| 13.30 to 14.30 | **Sourcing data (Part II) - Existing data sets on the extractive sector value chain**  Present GHEITI disclosures covering the extractive sector value chain between 2004-2019 as well as EITI summary data files and systematically disclosed data available in relevant government and company websites. | Edwin Warden (EITI) |
| 14.30 to 15.15 | **Sourcing data (Part III) - Other sources of information relevant to stories on beneficial ownership**  Complementary websites and datasets including the Parliament of Ghana website, ICIJ website, GII, OCCRP’s Aleph website. | Emmanuel Dogbevi |
| **Break (15 min)** | | |
| 15.30 to 16.45 | **Legal and ethical considerations in undertaking investigative research and reporting** | Emmanuel Dogbevi |
| 16.45 to 17.00 | **Closing and intro to day 3**  Introduce content for Day 4 and encourage participants to think about potential investigative pieces they would want to purpose (Title, objective, sources, etc). Experts will provide advice during the session on the next day | Agustina De Luca |

**Day 4 (Feb 24): Towards successful research proposals: pilot projects to use BO data**

On our final day we will discuss ideas for projects or data use cases that participants want to explore. Participants will share their early ideas, we will gather feedback from experienced researchers and launch a call for research proposals to be submitted in a month's time.

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| **Time** | **Content** | **Lead** |
| 9.00 to 9.30 | **Welcome of participants** |  |
| 9.30 to 12.00 | **Pitching ideas: discussion of potential data uses and refining proposals**  Some participants will present their research ideas and will receive feedback from the organising team and experts to refine them. The group will work together to help each other. | OE team and Emmanuel Dogbevi |
| **Lunch break (75 minutes)** | | |
| 13.30 to 14.00 | **Evaluating the sessions**  Participants will respond to a short questionnaire to evaluate the workshop and provide feedback to the team. | Agustina De Luca |
| 14.00 to 14.30 | **Pilot use-case: Open call for a grant scheme**  Introduction to the criteria, format, dates and aspects to consider to submit proposals to be supported by the OE team. | Agustina De Luca |
| 14.30 to 15.30 | **Closing remarks** |  |
| **Departure** | | |