Governance Reforms

Summary presentation of reform proposals for the 2023 Autumn General Meeting

FOR INFORMATION, NOT FOR DECISION
In 2024, MyData transforms to support you:
to shape the discussion we need,
to effectively implement our mission,
to enact the change we deserve,
and to succeed in the only way we can – together.
1. Summary of proposals and process
2. An overview of Why What and How
3. Why - Reasons to change
4. Why - Design principles for a new governance model
5. What - 3 year strategy
6. What - Summary of proposed governance reforms
7. What - Overview of the new Board
8. What - Integrated Board accountability
9. What - Overview of the Transitional Board & Steering Committee
10. How - Roadmap
11. How - Changes to the Association bylaws
12. How - Elections to appoint candidates to the new Board
13. How - Call for nominations to the Transitional Board
14. How - Questions and answers
Summary of proposals and process

1. This presentation provides background information for the 2023 AGM
2. Elections in the 2023 AGM will appoint the Transitional Board
3. Detailed reforms will be proposed in the 2024 Spring AGM, to take effect with the new Board in July 2024

WHAT

1. Reforms to the board
   a. board members appointed on MERIT (expertise and network profiles)
   b. board roles, responsibilities and meeting schedule adapted to maximize impact and professionalization
   c. mandate begins on July 2024
2. TRANSITIONAL BOARD serves from Jan-June 2024, responsible to recruit the new Board.
3. From 2024, annual General Meetings in the spring only, plus extraordinary meetings as necessary

HOW
Our strategy & governance model will be renewed

We take simple & critical steps forward
WHY

Reasons to change

We need to grow, mature & professionalize
We are missing opportunities
Some structures and processes are not working

1. We are missing critical expertises in the Board
2. We need to expand our network and reach new audiences
3. Current governance processes are very demanding on staff
4. There is a shortage of candidates to stand for election
WHY

Design principles for a new governance model

The right people
- Professionalization & Representation
  - By merit & right competences

The right process
- Simplification & Optimization
  - Efficient work

The right collaboration
- Empowerment of staff
  - Agile & coordinated
Regulations are emerging, but don't always enable human-centric approaches. MyData is salient with the global data advocacy movement. Emerging rules are embedded with a human-centric approach. MyData identifies problems and solutions. Business models are demonstrated. Technical solutions are demonstrated.
WHAT

Summary of proposed governance reforms*

1. Elect a Transitional board for 6 months to implement the Governance reform
2. Merge Board and Steering Committee starting in July 2024: one body with two functions (strategic & governance)
3. Introduce a new process to nominate Board members who have the right expertises & networks
4. Eliminate the Autumn General Meeting to hold only one GM per year (additional extraordinary sessions can be organised if needed)

*These reforms require changes to MyData Bylaws, as further described later in this presentation.
WHAT
Overview of the new Board

NEW BOARD

One body, two functions:
Strategic & Governance

MANDATE:
1. Ensure the implementation of the MDG strategy & MyData mission
2. Serve the association membership
3. Hold MDG staff accountable for implementing 1 & 2

MDG is financially sustainable & free of core debt

2 years term for members
Possibility for perpetuity

5 regular meetings per year

Compensation for travel when possible.
Other compensation when MDG

Minimum 6 diversified & professional Board members who understand personal data & believe in MyData mission (geography, gender, expertise, networks)

Key roles:
Chair, Vice chair, Treasurer and Membership representative(s)

Network profiles
1. international funders
2. international policy makers
3. thought leaders
4. big corporations
5. key MyData Global membership constituencies

Expertise profiles
1. finance and budget management
2. private sector business development
3. global regulations and policy
4. fundraising
5. growing & professionalizing an organization
6. Speaking to media and at events
7. Community engagement & energy

See Annex for more information
Integrated Board accountability

Board transparency
- The board conducts its running business on an open #board Slack channel
- All Board meeting agendas and minutes will be shared here by the membership representative
- Any member can participate in Board meetings as an observer with advance notice and full disclosure (observers cannot be anonymous) and oversee the work on the Board slack channel.

Representation
A Board member will have the official role of membership representative, responsible for:
- keeping the membership informed of Board work
- receiving and representing membership priorities and concerns in board discussions

Staff accountability
The MyData Global Board and Staff have a relationship of mutual accountability, mandated to ensure that each performs in accordance with MyData mission, strategy, and values.

Membership confidence and veto rights
The membership can in a general meeting veto a Board decision or cast a vote of no-confidence on individual Board members, removing them from office. Such decisions will be added to GM agenda’s at the request of any member of the Board or the Executive Director of MyData Global, and will require a supermajority of the membership present in the meeting to vote (75%) to pass.
Overview of the Transitional Board & Steering Committee

TRANSITIONAL BOARD & STEERING COMMITTEE

Fixed 6 months term (1.1 - 30.6.2024)

Special call for Board candidates with extraordinary networks

Change to bylaws to extend current Steering Committee period

SPECIAL MANDATE TO TRANSITIONAL BOARD:
1. Recruitment of the New Board (find the best people)
2. Implementation of new Governance reforms with staff

SPECIAL MANDATE TO STEERING COMMITTEE:
1. Ensure accountability of the Transition Board
2. Ensure implementation of the Governance reforms

Continuing Board Members
1. Paul Theyskens
2. Jean F. Queralt

Extraordinary Period for Current Steering Committee
1. Fredrik Lindén, Chair
2. Isabelle de Zegher, Vice chair
3. Marcelle Ngounou
4. Henrik Biering
5. Bo Harald
6. Thomas Bonefeld Jørgensen

4-8 Newly Elected Members to the Board

See Annex for more information

The Transitional Board & Steering Committee work as a team for an extraordinary term

Highly networked individuals
‘People who know people’
HOW

Roadmap

2023

CURRENT BOARD & STEERING

SPECIAL MANDATE TO BOTH:
1. Propose new strategy & governance model
2. Define changes to bylaws

2024

TRANSITIONAL BOARD & STEERING

SPECIAL MANDATE TO TRANSITIONAL BOARD:
1. Recruitment of the New Board (find the best people)
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SPECIAL MANDATE TO STEERING COMMITTEE:
1. Ensure accountability of the Transition Board
2. Ensure implementation of the Governance reforms

NEW BOARD

MANDATE:
1. Ensure the implementation of the MDG strategy & MyData mission
2. Serve the association membership
3. Hold MDG staff accountable for 1 & 2

ONE BODY, TWO FUNCTIONS: STRATEGIC & GOVERNANCE

People who know people, to find the best

People who ensures accountability

The right people

The right process

The right collaboration

An extraordinary period to prepare for success

A new model & process to professionalise, represent, optimize, continuity & empower

For details, see next slides
The Governance reforms require changes to MyData Bylaws, which are proposed to be done in two stages:

1. Changes to be proposed in the AGM 2023 (including the removal of election of alternates as mandated by the AGM 2022):

2. Preliminary draft of changes to be proposed in the SGM 2024, to be refined and validated:
Professionalisation of the Board & empowerment of members to make informed appointment decisions

This example shows how the Transition Board will present the nominations of experts for the new Board in May 2024. MDG members will accept, abstain or object each of the nominations.
Call for nominations to the Transitional Board

The Transitional Board will serve from Jan–June 2024, responsible for identifying, vetting, and recruiting candidates for the new Board.

To succeed in this mission, members of the Transitional Board will need to be highly networked and committed to using their personal connections and social capital to recruit for the new Board.

More information about the elections and how to submit your nomination, please visit mydata.org/elections
Questions & answers

How will the Board members be selected?
- All board candidates must be qualified, demonstrably having at least one of the required network profiles and one of the required expertise profiles. Any MyData member with the appropriate qualifications may serve on the board.
- The transitional board is responsible for identifying, vetting, and recruiting board candidates for the establishment of the full board on July 1, 2023. Subsequent changes to the board will be vetted and recruited by the staff with support and oversight from the board.
- Each board candidate will be individually subject to a vote of approval by the membership in order to be appointed.

How will my rights as a MyData member change with this model?
The only change to members rights and authorities in this model, is that individual members can not be appointed to the board unless they are qualified.

Can members still 'run' for the Transitional Board and the New Board?
Absolutely! There are two different Boards coming in 2024 with distinctive criteria for members (in addition to understanding personal data and believing in MyData mission):
1) Transitional Board: Extraordinary networks to find the best people for the New Board
2) New Board: Good networks and professional Board expertises
Please contact sille.sepp@mydata.org if you are interested.
This proposal was prepared by MyData Governance Task Force and approved by the Board and Steering Committee on 2 Oct 2023

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BOARD
Viivi Lähteenoja, Chair
Paula Bello, Vice chair
Antti “Jogi” Poikola, Treasurer
Marlies Rikken, Secretary
Christopher Lee
Paul Theyskens
Jean F. Queralt

STEERING COMMITTEE
Fredrik Lindén, Chair
Isabelle de Zegher, Vice chair
Marcelle Ngounou
Henrik Biering
Bo Harald
Thomas Bonefeld Jørgensen