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Centre for Public Service Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SA-EU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP  
THE DIALOGUE FACILITY

## Media Statement: To all media

08 April 2022

### SA-EU Dialogue: Developing open governance policies for a digital future

8 April 2022. A two-day hybrid conference, hosted by the Deputy Minister for the Public Service and Administration, Dr Chana Pilane-Majake and the Danish Ambassador to South Africa Ambassador Tobias Elling Rehfeld, took place at the Maropeng Conference Centre near Magaliesburg this week.

Also in attendance was the Director General of the DPSA, Ms Yoliswa Makhasi, Acting Executive Director for the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI), Ms Lydia Sebokedi, and Prof Mzukisi Qobo the Head of The Wits School of Governance whilst the Head of Cooperation for the EU Delegation to SA, Dr Bernard Rey joined virtually.

Speaking about rapid changes in the digital landscape and global geo-political shifts, the Deputy Minister addressed the need to be adaptable and resilient. "In order to navigate a volatile and unpredictable digital landscape, we have to adopt a learning attitude and engage across sectoral, regional and continental boundaries."

This dialogue, funded by the South African and European Union's (SA-EU) Strategic Partnership, provided a platform for mutual learning about digital governance strategies in Denmark, South Africa and other leading countries. On Tuesday, 5th April, a delegation from Denmark visited Tshimologong Precinct in Johannesburg and the State Information Agency in Pretoria to experience the status of digital transformation in South Africa.

The conference that followed, combined a traditional knowledge-based seminar approach with "beyond talk" creative co-design sessions where

practitioners engaged in facilitated, collective intelligence explorations and knowledge building.

The Deputy Minister encouraged delegates to be learners, to seek collaboration and cooperation not just in theory, but in a way that would lead to concrete actions and outcomes that results in real benefits for citizens. She requested that delegates be honest in their conversations and to share failures, frustrations and learnings.

This dialogue aims to provide strategic insight and guidance for the South African and Danish policy- and strategy-making processes, and contributed to the development and implementation of pragmatic and responsive roadmaps for effective digital governance.

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