

ePSI Platform Tour 2014

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With the objective of raising awareness among the local communities, the ePSI Platform performed different activities in six European cities, scheduling meetings with national governments, activists, professionals and researchers to discuss about the status of PSI reuse in those countries. The objective was to identify the challenges and difficulties those governments and communities are facing in order to open up (and reuse) public assets.



Zagreb (Croatia)

The first stop on the tour was Zagreb, on 25th November. A meeting organised by the Croatian Information Commissioner, **Anamarija Musa**, in cooperation with the Ministry of Administration, brought together over 40 people from different ministries, public bodies, the local university, and private industry.

The newest Member State is taking baby steps in the PSI reuse field. The government count on many individual advocates but with a tangible lack of resources. Five speakers led a discussion with all the attendees, and some interesting things were presented: such as gov.hr (*Moja uprava* or My Administration), the new public portal that collects and exposes all the public services and contents. This portal is now the entry point for citizens to search and find public information.

The Croatian Open Data portal (data.gov.hr) is expected to be launched in January 2015. Croatian public bodies will be able to publish data by themselves using this platform that is based on the UK's open source software.

The Digital information Documentation Office is already publishing some public assets through digured.hr, the national repository for official documents. They are aware that most of the

documents (85%) are in PDF formats —right for archiving purposes is OK but not for reuse. The collection of electronic legislative documents is the most important information they store, with regulations and contracts of all governmental-level public bodies.

Also, in order to achieve a better democracy, the government will release savjetovanje.gov.hr, a platform for public consultation, where all the public bodies will carry on all consultations.

A draft of the PSI Directive transposition will be released in January 2015. After that, Croatian stakeholders will be able to send feedback before the law is officially issued.

Budapest (Hungary)

The first idea for the second stop of the tour was involving the Hungarian government in a similar activity to understand their point of view on PSI reuse, checking the status of the transposition. We did not receive any response from their side so we decided to organise [a meetup](#) with the rest of stakeholders: the main activists and developers in Budapest. This meetup, led by [Zoltan Varju](#), was held at the Colabs' facilities in Budapest, on the evening of the 25th November.

The day after, on 26th November, the ePSI Platform took part in the [Budapest BI Forum](#), a series of conferences on business intelligence and analytics, addressed to over a hundred of IT Hungarian professionals.



Bratislava (Slovak Republic)

On 27th November, we held a meeting with representatives of the national government, those in charge of the implementation of the PSI policies and the development of solutions for Open Data PSI reuse. The meeting was held at the headquarters of the National Agency for Network and Electronic Services (NASSES), with representatives of the Ministry of Finance and other Slovak institutions.

The Slovak Republic is really advanced in Open Data, and highly interested in the technological excellence ([5-star model](#)). Open Data is present in the national digital agenda as one of their seven top priorities.

Although there is already a central Open Data portal (data.gov.sk), they are working on what they call it **eDemocracy**, a modular infrastructure for the central government aiming at providing a wide range of services to citizens. One of the modules of this platform is for Open Data.

The Slovak transposition is expected by March 2015, and it is important to mention that they organise regular meetings with external experts and citizens to understand the needs and opportunities.

Since they are part of the [COMSODE project](#), they are using guidelines, tools, and adopting best practices on Open Data publication.

Warsaw (Poland)

On 9th December, a public event was organised by the Information Society Department of the Ministry of Administration and Digitization, in Warsaw. A dozen of Polish organisations, such as [Fundacja ePanstwo](#) and [Centrum Cyfrowe](#), actively participated in the meeting offering their point of view on the PSI issues in their country.



Centrum Cyfrowe, experts in cultural heritage field, presented [Open Monuments](#), a Web application related to PSI digitation, where the information is mainly received in Excel, corrected, visualized and published as Open Data. [mojePanstwo](#) is a Open-Data-based tool developed by Fundacja ePanstwo to visualise public information for transparency purposes.

Now that the cultural institutions are included in the scope of the amended Directive, the [National Institute for Museums and Public Collections \(NIMOZ\)](#) —the organisation that manages over a thousand of Polish museums— is also involved in opening up the information held by these organisations. They have detected some problems regarding digitization (e.g., the lack of an existing legal framework), having into account that even some museums do not have webpage yet. NIMOZ manages valuable information like statistics, database of museums, registry of stolen or illegally exported artworks, etc.

Vilnius (Lithuania)

The Information Society Development Committee under the Ministry of Transport and Communications (ISDC) of the Republic of Lithuania organised an informative session for policy makers, agency managers, and public servants in general. Representatives of about 50 national public bodies attended this meeting on 10th December, in the Lithuanian capital.

The main objective of this meeting was to introduce the foundations of Open Data to the national agencies, presenting the Information Society Development Committee's Open Data roadmap. This roadmap includes questions on policy, formats and promotion of the PSI reuse in Lithuania.

Tallinn (Estonia)

The final stop on the tour was Tallinn, on 12th December. It took the form of a public meeting at the headquarters of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia with over thirty attendees from several ministries who discussed, together with other Estonian stakeholders, the future transposition of the Directive in Estonia and the plans of the government regarding open data and PSI reuse.

The Estonian Government is organising periodic internal meetings with a working group aimed at helping the definition of the national policies as well as providing the necessary resources to apply effectively the future transposition in Estonia.



As a result of all these visits we can conclude that all these governments (no idea about Hungary) are committed to the evolution of electronic administration towards a more sustainable, efficient, and democratic society.