Best Practice: Establish an Open Data Ecosystem

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  http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/bp/eode-20160725/
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This is one of a set of Best Practices for implementing the (Revised) PSI Directive developed by the Share-PSI 2.0 Thematic Network.

Outline

Organisations are taking giant steps towards freeing up public data with the aim of making it available for everyone to access this data and information, for personal as well as for business use. The uptake of this data and information has not been what was expected, however. Simply making data available to the public isn't enough to make that data useful. Citizens are not interested in data: they are interested in services being built with the available data and information. Therefore more needs to be done: the establishment of an active open data network, an ecosystem to facilitate the uptake of data and information for reuse.

Links to the Revised PSI Directive

Organisation, Platforms, Dataset criteria, Charging, Reuse, Selection, Discoverability

Challenge

The open data landscape consists of different actors and users with different needs, challenges, problems, expectations, roles and envisaged opportunities. A strategy to coordinate all of those internal and external actors, stakeholders and interested parties, is needed. Only then can they be convinced to share data and information and make those available for re-use; only then will all involved know what can/must be available in order to realize innovation efforts and new products and services envisaged in the PSI directive.

Solution

An active network is needed, an "open data ecosytem," facilitating interaction and communication amongst everybody interested and/or involved in open data and the re-use of information and data, internal, as well as external to the organisation. Within such a regional, national and international

ecosystem, information exchange such as success stories will increase visibility and therefore awareness with regards to the availability of data and information for re-use and the results achieved by doing so. Small infomediary companies could act as intermediaries between all involved parties and with other market segments. Examples can be found in Spain where over 80% of infomediary companies are older than 5 years old and generate approximately 4,500 to 5,500 jobs, mostly linked to ICT: analysis, processing and presentation of information [DH].

Why is this a Best Practice?

Most open data initiatives in most EU member states have focussed on making sure everything is in place on the supply side of opening up their data and information. Experience in many member states shows that it is not sufficient to just make the data open, i.e. simply making data available to the public isn't enough to make that data useful. All agree that focusing on bringing about the necessary strategic, legal and technical aspects with regards to the implementation of open data isn't enough either. Open data requires an approach based on the administration releasing it, the kind of data being released and, perhaps most importantly, its targeted audience. Interaction, communication, contacts with journalists, raising awareness, training, collaboration, discussions etc. is needed to foster the development of new innovative products and services, thereby helping to realise the goals of the PSI Directive such as stimulating economic and business activity and ultimately providing value for society as a whole. Initiating an open and constructive dialogue could be the beginning of an open data ecosystem, giving rise to sustainable business models of solutions making use of Public Sector Information, hopefully in combination with data and information from the private sector. Mostly forgotten, but not less important; this best practice will also achieve efficiency gains through sharing data inside and between public administration, fostering participation of citizens in political and social life and increasing transparency of government.

Implementing this best practice could help:

- to get the most out of scarce public resources that are available in our member states;
- to increase reuse, by the private and also by the public sector;
- to focus the government agencies' efforts on offering the relevant information;
- to improve available dataset formats, the information quality and its accessibility;
- to promote better national regulations on PSI;
- to enhance coordination between public and private sector in PSI reuse;
- to bring about real added value to the development of open data in the member states and help communities to enter the open data movement or improve on it;
- to use what already exists;
- to make use of best practices realised in other member states;
- to realise speed, scale of economy, cooperation.

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How do I implement this Best Practice?

To adopt this Best Practice you will need to:

- make sure everything is in place to facilitate the implementation of open data (strategy, content, legal and technical);
- be willing to adopt a bottom-up approach to implement an open data program;
- bring about an open data ecosystem by listening to all stakeholders and interested parties;
- dedicate the necessary people and resources in realising this ecosystem;
- be willing to share data inside and between public administrations;

- establish the necessary follow-up procedures towards continuity.

Where has this best practice been implemented?

Country	Implementation	Contact Point
Albania	[Utilization Cases of Open Data Albania](), Julia Hoxha and Aranita Brahaj, Institute AIFB, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany and Albanian Institute of Science, Tirana, Albania. Presented at Share-PSI Samos Workshop Uses of Open Data Within Government for Innovation and Efficiency, July 2014.	Julia Hoxha – Albanian Institute of Science, Tirana, Albania. Aranita Brahaj – Albanian Institute of Science, Tirana, Albania. Benedikt Kämpgen – Institute AIFB, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany.
Finland	[Helsinki Loves Developers]()	Contact form included on the page.

References

- [Lisbon workshop]() presentation: [Spanish Infomediary Sector Characteristics]() (PDF), M. D. Hernández, Ministerio de Hacienda y Administraciones Públicas. Madrid, Spain.
- Samos Workshop Talk: [Open Government Data Austria - Organisation, Procedures and Uptake]()
- Samos Workshop Talk: [The Flemish Innovation Projects: promoting innovation through encouraging the use and re-use of government datasets.]()
- Lisbon Workshop Session: [Events, hackathons and challenge series - stimulating open data reuse]()
- Lisbon Workshop Session: [Open Data Economy: from 'Wow' to 'How']()
- Timisoara Workshop Talk: [EU actions on Open Data – current policy and legal context]()
- Krems Workshop Talk: [An Ongoing Open Dialog in an Open Data Ecosystem]()
- Berlin Workshop Talk: [Government as a Developer - Challenges and Perils]()
- Open Data Institute guidance: [Engaging with reusers]()
- Open Data Institute method report: [Peer networks for open data leaders]()
- Open Data Institute white paper: [How to improve agriculture, food and nutrition with open data]()

Local Guidance

This Best Practice is cited by, or is consistent with, the advice given within the following guides:

- (Austria) [Open-Government-Vorgehensmodell]() Open Government Process Model
- (Belgium) [Open Data Handleiding]() Open Data Handbook
- (CzechRepublic) [Standardy publikace a katalogizace otevřených dat veřejné správy ČR]() Open Data Standards
- (Finland) [Helsinki Region Infoshare]()
- (Finland) [Avoimen Datan Opas]() Open Data Guide
- (Germany) [Open Government Data Deutschland]()

- (International) [Using Open Public Sector Information](#)
- (International) [ELI implementation methodology: Good practices and guidelines](#)
- (International) [Open Data Handbook, Solutions Bank](#)
- (Latvia) [Atvērto datu vadlīnijas](#) Open Data Guidelines
- (Lithuania) [Viešojo Sektoriaus Informacijos platinimo gerosios praktikos](#) Best Practices for Sharing Public Sector Information
- (Luxembourg) [Recommandations pour l'ouverture des données publiques](#) Recommendations for opening data
- (Norway) [Veileder i tilgjengeliggjøring av offentlige data](#) Guide to making public data available
- (Portugal) [Guia Dados Abertos - AMA | Dados.gov](#) Open Data Guide
- (Serbia) [Open Data Handbook](#)
- (Slovenia) [Priročnik za odpiranje podatkov javnega sektorja](#) Manual for the opening of public sector information
- (Spain) [Guía de aplicación de la Norma Técnica de Interoperabilidad de reutilización de recursos de información](#)Application Guide for Technical Interoperability Standard on PSI re-use
- (Spain) [Government Data Openness and Re-use](#)
- (UK) [Building best practices for sharing public sector data](#)
- (UK) [Open Data Resource Pack](#)
- (UK) [Birmingham and West Midlands Localised Guide for Open Data](#)

Contact Info

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Related Best Practices

- [Develop and Implement a Cross Agency Strategy](#)
- [Support Open Data Start Ups](#)
- [Encourage crowdsourcing around PSI](#)
- [Establish Open Government Portal for data sharing](#)

Issue Tracker

Any matters arising from this BP, including implementation experience, lessons learnt, places where it has been implemented or guides that cite this BP can be recorded and discussed on the project's [GitHub repository](#)