Best Practice: Support Open Data Start Ups

25 July 2016

This version
http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/bp/su-20160725/
Latest version
http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/bp/su/
Previous version
http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/bp/su-20160627/

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

An academic business accelerator is an organisational unit within a university that aims to mobilise and support people to build their own enterprise. The unit is responsible for transferring the innovation and entrepreneurship mentality to the next generation of skilled entrepreneurs. It also maintains collaboration with private and public structures for funding and mentoring. Open data can provide a very useful basis for entrepreneurship, allowing for development of added value services by citizens and small enterprises. The open data sub-unit enhances the collaboration between universities (potential entrepreneurs) with private and public funding organisations (chambers of commerce, municipalities, start-up investors) and experts (coaches and mentors) from the private sector in order to foster innovative open data start-ups to go live.

Links to the Revised PSI Directive

Policies and Legislation

Challenge

Getting a PSI / open data inspired based business up and running requires a multitude of fields of knowledge and mentoring.

Solution

Universities are well inter-connected, they have the required knowledge necessary for open data startups like (statisitics, visualisation, programming), and they usually have the necessary relationships to practitioners, and other academics to complete missing skills and knwoledge.

Furthermore they can provide:

- Resources: They often own facilities which are not used upto their full capacity.

- Mentoring: University nodes can act as a trusted third party intermediary, who can establish the first contacts, or bring the first 5 customers.
- Networking to startups: Professors, Professionals.
- Potential Entrepreneurs like students, Alumni, SMEs, Individuals.

Why is this a Best Practice?

It contributes to sustainable growth and entrepreneurship based on Open Data, in Europe.

Why is this a Best Practice?

It contributes to sustainable growth and entrepreneurship based on Open Data, in Europe.

How do I implement this Best Practice?

A new structure in a University or other similar educational institute is needed.

Detailed steps towards the academic startup incubator:

- make open data via web services available to students: provide some initial tools, training, technology groups;
- expand on successful startup examples, generalize and apply to other areas of business;
- make long lasting competitions, as one month is not enough in order to distill ideas;
- connect with the outer world: journalists;
- provide legal advice for the establishment, IPR and privacy;
- mentors should also come from successful startups;
- The loudest bird survives: Blog on every activity, involve students into that process;
- team up with another academic school (unite media and technics);
- provide intercultural communication education, as startups are likely to provide services on an international scale;
- first identify friendly customers, then make them enthusiasts.

Where has this best practice been implemented?

Country	Implementation	Contact Point
Greece	The University of the Aegean Startup Incubator	Yannis Charalabidis, University of the Aegean
Greece	Gov4All platform: University of the Aegean/Microsoft Greece open data incubator	Yannis Charalabidis, University of the Aegean
Australia	DataStart: A public-private partnership	Tim Neal, Data Policy, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australia
Czech Republic	Fond Otakara Motejla	motejl@motejl.cz
Spain	Gijón OpenDataLab: local start-up incubator	Martin Alvarez-Espinar, CTIC

References

- Lisbon Workshop Session: Open Data Startups: Catalyzing open data demand for commercial usage
- Krems Workshop Session: University Business Accelerators on Open Data: Activities, Challenges and Best Practices
- Berlin Workshop Talk: An Intelligent Fire Risk Monitor Based on Linked Open Data (PDF)
- Presentation slides
- Open Data Incubator Europe

Local Guidance

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

- (Belgium) Open Data Handleiding Open Data Handbook
- (Finland) Avoimen Datan Opas Open Data Guide
- (Germany) Open Government Data Deutschland
- (International) Using Open Public Sector Information
- (Latvia) Atvērto datu vadlīnijas Open Data Guidelines
- (Lithuania) Viešojo Sektoriaus Informacijos platinimo gerosios praktikos Best Practices for Sharing Public Sector Information
- (Serbia) Open Data Handbook
- (Spain) Guía metodológica para planes open data sectoriales Methodological Guide for Sectorial Open Data Plans
- (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

Yannis Charalabidis, University of the Aegean.

Related Best Practices

- Establish an Open Data Ecosystem
- Establish Open Government Portal for data sharing
- Open Data Business Models & Value Disciplines

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