

Creating an open ecosystem for fostering innovation with Public Sector Information

Open standards and open access to data drive innovation



Making Public Sector Information (PSI) available for innovation

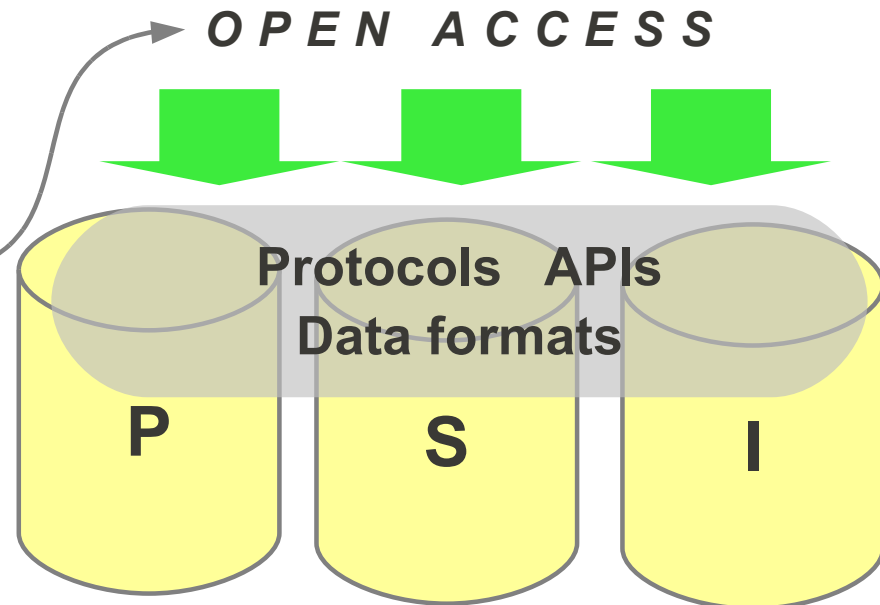
DIGITAL AGENDA FOR EUROPE

“[...] governments can stimulate content markets by making public sector information available on transparent, effective, nondiscriminatory terms. This is an important source of potential growth of innovative online services. The re-use of these information resources has been partly harmonised, but additionally public bodies must be obliged to open up data resources for cross-border applications and services.” (section 2.1.1, p. 5)

“Open Data”

Innovative use of open data:
collaborative innovation and
new services creating added
value

- Analyses
- Calculations
- Cross-sector integration
- New business opportunities
- ...



PSI – Challenges: the sample case of IBM's City Forward

City Forward

- free, web-based platform (<http://cityforward.org>)
- enables users - city officials, researchers, academics and interested citizens world-wide - to view and interact with city data while engaging in an ongoing public dialogue about cities

Users can explore and analyse data collected from numerous public sources featuring metropolitan areas, cities and smaller geographic areas

City Forward's exploration tools help identify patterns, trends and correlations in the data that may reveal new insights and point to new areas for further investigation.

CHALLENGES

- **Disparity** of how data is being made available today;
- **Need to import data** through ad hoc transformation processes on a case by case basis;
- Need to ensure that the data is **transformed correctly** and that **information does not get corrupted or lost**;
- Working with data is **uncomfortable**;
- **Cost and unnecessary technological barriers** are created .

Openness and Open Standards for PSI

KEY PRINCIPLES

- Flexibility:** Level playing field, no single control of technology
- Interoperability:** Eliminate barriers in communications and information sharing
- Cost effectiveness:** Avoid vendor dependencies and lock-in

Open up data that is available already fast

Important aspects:

- Machine readability
- Automatic processing

Publish information about formats with the data

Use non-proprietary formats

No single entity should be able to control access to data;

This should apply both for

- Available data
- Future data

Common formats, protocols and APIs for future data

Reach agreements – preferably harmonised for Europe;

Take into account similar agreements elsewhere – “global standards”

OPEN STANDARDS

- ➔ Should be required for making PSI available
- ➔ Positive effects on innovation (like with software-interoperability)
- ➔ Open Standards are (i) published without restriction; (ii) freely available for adoption; (iii) controlled by an open industry organisation; (iv) implemented by multiple vendors & on different platforms

Some Concrete Policy Recommendations

Develop a Pan-European Framework for PSI

In collaboration with Member State Expert Group on PSI

Include requirements for machine readable format, open standards, interoperability

Initiate a study to develop recommendations for standards and specifications

Inventory of available open standards and specifications

Pragmatic recommendations on how to deal with existing data sources

Develop guidelines and advice on pan-European level

Support the opening up of data

Architecture guidelines

Implementation services

Sharing of tools and technologies

Initiate requirements definition process

Develop standards roadmap

Identify functional gaps

Take global perspective – including cross border use of open data

Thanks very much for your attention ...



... Happy to answer your questions...

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See also our detailed position paper at <http://share-psi.eu/papers/IBM.pdf>