What Publishing Open Government Data Really Looks Like – Challenges and Sustainable Solutions

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J.P. Lovato, Swiss Federal Archives
The Swiss Federal Archives and Open Data

• Managing opendata.swiss for 2 years

• Managing handbook.opendata.swiss for 2 years

• Coordinating the 2nd round of the “federal data inventory”

• ...
Publishing OGD
Our role

Ready to publish open data?
handbook.opendata.swiss provides support for individuals and organizations wishing to publish open government data. It is currently available in a beta version. We welcome suggestions for improvements as well as error reports.

Identify
data for opening
- What is Open Government Data (OGD)?
- What data does my organization hold?
- Compiling a data inventory

Prepare
legal foundations
- Preliminary legal checks
- Choosing terms of use

Publish
as open data
- Harvester
- Selecting your publication option
- Publication
- User guide to opendata.swiss
- Data hosting

Support
and promote usage
Publishing OGD
Current missions

0. More data

1. Ensuring “Open Data Quality”

2. Data-Publishers and -Users: (still) 2 distant worlds
1. Ensuring “Open Data Quality”

“Open Data Quality”

«It is unlikely that people will be able to engage with data to derive insights and demonstrate benefits unless it is usable.»

«Open data becomes usable when a human can understand it, machines can manipulate it and it is made available under an open licence.»

(www.europeandataportal.eu/elearning)
1. Ensuring “Open Data Quality”

Defining an “Open Data Quality” approach

DEFINE YOUR FOCUS

Quality Quantity

PROVIDE INCENTIVES

Low quality = no publication
Quality labelling
No incentive

MEASURE QUALITY

Verify quality compliance
Allow user rating
No measurement

opendata.swiss
1. Ensuring “Open Data Quality”

Defining an “Open Data Quality” approach

- How satisfied are you about the quality of the open data you publish/use?

- Which could be the most effective measure to improve OD quality?
  - Open data quality training
  - Develop clearer quality guidelines
  - Make examples of high quality available
  - Enforce open data quality
Publishing OGD
Current missions

0. More data

1. Ensuring “Open Data Quality”

2. Data-Publishers and -Users: (still) 2 distant worlds
2. Publishers and -Users: (still) distant worlds

Establishing an open-data culture

Dialogue with OGD users

Regular dialogue with the users (private sector, academia and civil society) is being fostered to optimise the data on offer, to develop standards and tools and to establish best practice.

(Open Government Data Strategy Switzerland 2014-2018)

Common goals

- Ensure high usability of data
- Define effective publication plan
- Highlight relevance of open data
- Continuously improve data/metadata quality
- …
2. Publishers and -Users: (still) distant worlds

Current state

• Data-Publishers try to understand users through statistics (web, no. of apps,...), count heavily on intermediaries

• Data-Users often prefer “unofficial” channels to request or comment on data, usually don’t involve publishers in their projects
2. Publishers and -Users: (still) distant worlds

Change the situation: allocating resources

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hackathon</td>
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<td>Data Challenges</td>
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<td>Innovation program (e.g. “Data Pitch”)</td>
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<td>Regular (classic) meetings</td>
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<td>Data exploration workshops</td>
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<td>Online interaction platforms (e.g. Forum)</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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2. Publishers and Users: (still) distant worlds

- How important is it to bring users and publishers together?
- Which are the most effective measures or ways to do it?
- What is the role of the government? What is the role of the open data community?
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