Open data portals

Open data portals facilitate access to and reuse of public sector information. They can help encourage cross-border use of reusable data in Europe.

© iStock by Getty Images -940972538 Bet_Noire

Open data portals are web-based interfaces designed to make it easier to find reusable information. Like library catalogues, they contain metadata records of datasets published for reuse, mostly relating to information in the form of raw, numerical data rather than textual documents.

In combination with specific search functionalities, they facilitate finding datasets of interest. Application programming interfaces (APIs) are often available as well, offering direct and automated access to data for software applications.

Open data portals are an important element of most open data initiatives and are mainly used by public administrations at European, national and local level in EU countries. Notable examples of Open Data portals maintained by public administrations in Europe are:

- opendata.paris.fr
- www.data.gouv.fr
- www.dati.piemonte.it
- www.dati.gov.it
- www.data.overheid.nl

While supporting policy development by offering easy access to published data, open data portals can also work as a catalyst triggering the publication of more and better quality data. For administrations obliged or willing to disseminate their data, they offer the advantage of providing public access without the need to reply to individual requests for access to data. And, more and more companies are opening up some of their data for developers to reuse.

The European Commission offers an open data portal for any type of information held by the Commission and other EU institutions and bodies. The European Union's Open Data Portal has been in operation since December 2012.

The European Data Portal

The European Commission has funded the European Data Portal through the Connecting Europe Facility programme. The portal is a pan-European repository of public sector information open for reuse in the EU. It offers a training centre on how to reuse open data and a database of success stories from European and international re-users.

The principal function of the European Data Portal is to provide a single point of access in all 24 EU official languages for data published by public administrations at all levels of government in Europe (EU countries, countries of the European Economic Area and certain other European countries).

In order to foster comparability of data published across borders, it presents metadata references in a common format (Data Catalog Vocabulary application profile for data portals in Europe), using resource description framework (RDF) technology. It provides translations of metadata descriptions in all 24 languages using machine-translation technology.

The portal complements national, regional and thematic open data portals, and the EU's Open Data Portal. Each of these portals target relevant user audiences, offering tailored content. This infrastructure will stimulate cross-border use of reusable information in Europe by improving the findability of data across countries and supporting the development of data applications and products including data from different countries. For example, by offering assistance on applicable licensing conditions.

EU open data portal

European data portal

Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.

•

Follow the Commission's work on data @DataEcoEU

Latest

PRESS RELEASE | 16 July 2021
New rules on Open data and reuse of public sector
information start to apply

Tomorrow, 17 July 2021, will mark the deadline for
Member States to transpose the revised Directive
on open data and reuse of public sector
information into national law. The updated rules

will stimulate the development of innovative solutions such as mobility apps, increase transparency by opening the access to publicly funded research data, and support new technologies, including artificial intelligence.

PRESS RELEASE | 03 June 2021
Commission seeks views on data sharing

The European Commission has launched an open public consultation on the announced Data Act aiming to create a fair data economy by ensuring access to and use of data. The consultation seeks to gather views from citizens, businesses, online platforms, academics, civil society, administrations and all interested parties. It is open until 3 September.

PRESS RELEASE | 23 January 2019
EU negotiators agree on new rules for sharing of public sector data

Negotiators from the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the Commission have reached an agreement on a revised directive that will facilitate the availability and re-use of public sector data.

PRESS RELEASE | 04 October 2018
Joint statement by Vice-President Ansip and Commissioner Gabriel on the European Parliament's vote on the new EU rules facilitating the free flow of non-personal data

The European Parliament has adopted a Regulation on the free flow of non-personal data proposed by the European Commission in September 2017. Vice-President for the Digital Single Market Andrus Ansip and Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society Mariya Gabriel welcomed the outcome in a joint statement.

Browse Open data

Related Content

Big Picture

Open data

The European Commission's policies focus on generating value for the economy and society through the reuse of public sector information.

See Also

Non-legislative measures to facilitate reuse

The European Commission works to overcome the barriers limiting the reuse of public sector information through non-legislative measures.

Implementation of the Public Sector Information Directive

The Commission has created a detailed list on how different countries have implemented the Public Sector Information (PSI) directive

From the Public Sector Information (PSI) Directive to the Open Data Directive

The reuse of open data can help grow the European economy, develop artificial intelligence and aid work to overcome societal challenges.

Source URL: *https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/open-data-portals*