

HOMER Project

HOMER, lessons learnt and relevance of data quality

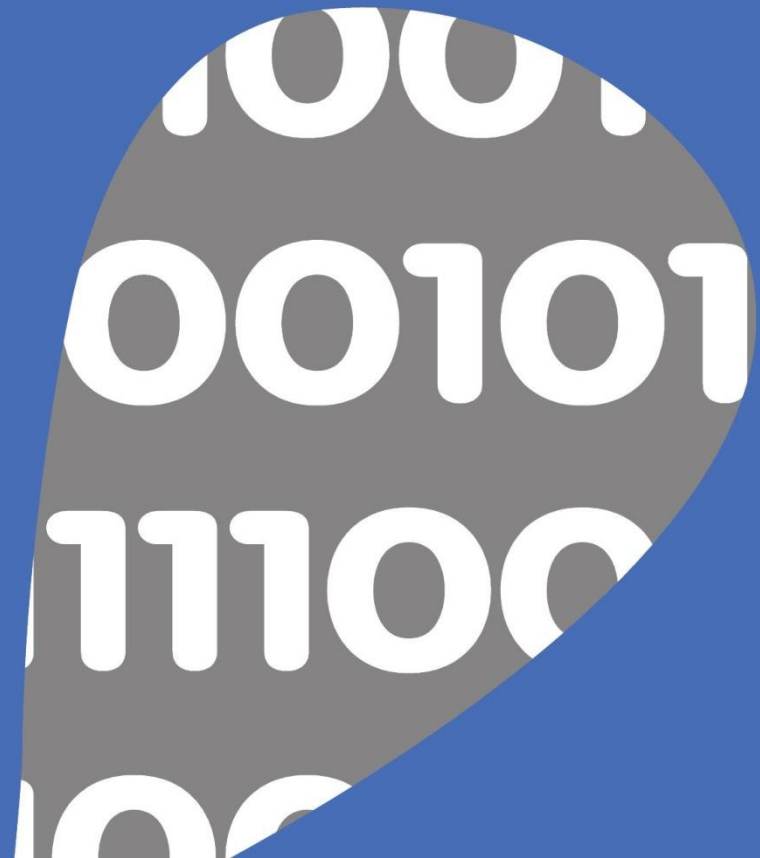
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Cagliari Event

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HOMER achieved IMPACT

- Harmonised both from a legal point of view and technical aspects the OD portals in MED;
- Creation of a Federation of OD portals (more than 4.000 datasets);
- Stimulated the re-use federated data by developing useful applications for citizens and government (36 apps developed, users scenarios developed);
- Created awareness about Open Data policy;

Very Good work!

But which are the obstacles?

- Lack of specialized skills and expertise to manage open databases in PA staff;
- Difficulty to keep the data updated;
- Most public data are still collected and managed in non-digital form and not machine readable formats.
- In countries where no internal protocol has been set up, it is up to the discretion of each Department Head to decide which information can be opened, and so the results differ greatly.
- OD are perceived mainly as an exercise of transparency from administrations toward the citizens.

And the feedback from the users?

Thanks to Pilot activities the usability of OD have been evaluated:

- Very poor quality of datasets: not updated or missing some relevant data;
- Very different formats among similar topic data and even from the same source (Excel, CSV, JPG?);
- Better to have few data but high quality, rather than lot of data;
- Language: HOMER uses EUROVOC to search metadata but the data are in each partners language. This is an obstacle for developers.
- Very difficult for not IT expert citizens to use OD without a support.

Let's evaluate our work according with:

Technical openness:

- Does the data exist?
- Is the data in digital form?
- Is the data available online?
- Is the data machine-readable?
- Is it available in bulk (the whole dataset can be downloaded)?
- Is the data provided on a timely and up to date basis?

Legal status of openness:

- Is the data publicly available?
- Is the data available for free?
- Is the data openly licensed?

And:

- How many standards for each datasets?
- How many licenses for each datasets?

Global OD Index: Where we are?

Open Knowledge published the [Global Open Data Index 2014](#) (December 2014):
The Index benchmarks open data by looking at ten key datasets, chosen based on
the [G8 key datasets definition](#) and after consulting the Open Government
Community:

1. Election Results (national)

2. Company Register

3. National Map

4. Government Spending (high level of spending by sector)

(Note: Just a database of contracts awarded or similar is not considered sufficient.
This data category refers to detailed ongoing data on actual expenditure)

5. Government Budget (detailed transactional level data) budgets which
are government plans for expenditure (not actual expenditure in the past).

6. Legislation (laws and statutes).

**7. National Statistical Office Data (economic and demographic
information)**

8. National Postcode/ZIP database

9. Public Transport Timetables

10. Pollutant Emission

Global OD Index: Where we are?

Following the same criteria of technical and legal openness applied at the 10 categories, the rank for our (homer) countries is:

Rank 2014	Country	Rank 2013
3	France	12
25	Italy	20
26	Slovenia	6
31	Malta	20
31	Spain	27
54	Greece	41
87	Cyprus	60
??	Montenegro	??

For the future:

Do not evaluate your work ONLY with the indicator on number of dataset exposed.

Better to include also:

- Number of departments/offices involved in opening data;
- Number of Data exposed after user's request;
- Number of economically marketable services developed with OD;
- Number of SMEs involved in data request-production-utilization chain;
- Number of licenses and standards adopted in every dataset (situation too much fragmented?);

This can be summarised with indicators on:

Sustainability
Reuse

That will ensure to measure not only quantity but also quality of the data exposed.

Where to go next?

- Use simple common standards, do not reinvent the wheel: users manuals on tech solutions and legal aspects are presents and easy-to-use (HOMER)
- If you start from the beginning, choose a topic and open good quality data on that topic: be specific, less time and money, better results
- Check if the data needed by your users are available or not. If not open those data first.
- When you release data think about “Business” and “Culture”: hot topics (OKF summit 2014).
- Stimulate the reuse of data: contest, create and purchase services, organise events.
- You are not alone: there is a huge community, HOMER is a federation waiting you to join (not only for being inside a “server” but inside a community)
- Establish inside your offices collaborations among different offices and involve them to ensure your work is part of a value chain and make it sustainable
- Ensure some funds for your activities – utilise the EU projects as a possibility.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

