








Important aspects to keep in mind

-  The DCAT Application profile for data portals in Europe (DCAT-AP) is a specification based on W3C's Data Catalogue vocabulary (DCAT) for describing metadata of public sector datasets in Europe.
-  It is the standard used by the European Data Portal as well.
-  Version 1.1 is released end of 2015 and available here:
https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/asset/dcat_application_profile/asset_release/dcat-ap-v11
-  Information on the national extensions of DCAT-AP can be found here:
<https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/document/national-extensions-analysis-dcat-ap>
-  Updates and news can be found here:
<https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/solution/dcat-application-profile-data-portals-europe>
-  A DCAT-AP validation tool is available here:
https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/software/dcat-ap_validator/asset_release/dcat-ap-validation-service-110
-  The next slide provides the mandatory and recommended classes.

Benefits of DCAT-AP:

By using a common metadata schema to describe datasets:

1. Data publishers increase the discoverability of the data and thus re-use
2. Data re-users can search across platforms without facing difficulties caused by the use of separate models or language differences

What are the required fields to include in the metadata?

Class name	Usage note for the Application Profile	URI	Reference
Mandatory			
Agent	An entity that is associated with Catalogues and/or Datasets. If the Agent is an organisation, the use of the Organization Ontology is recommended.	foaf:Agent	http://xmlns.com/foaf/spec/#term_Agent https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/
Catalogue	A catalogue or repository that hosts the Datasets being described.	dcat:Catalog	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/
Dataset	A conceptual entity that represents the information published.	dcat:Dataset	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/
Resource	Anything described by RDF.	rdfs:Resource	http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-schema/#ch_resource
Recommended			
Category	A subject of a Dataset.	skos:Concept	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/
Category scheme	A concept collection (e.g. controlled vocabulary) in which the Category is defined.	skos:ConceptScheme	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/
Distribution	A physical embodiment of the Dataset in a particular format.	dcat:Distribution	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/
Licence document	A legal document giving official permission to do something with a resource.	dct:LicenseDocument	http://dublincore.org/documents/2012/06/14/dcmi-terms/?v=terms#LicenseDocument

The table provides a summary of the important classes of DCAT-AP.

Source: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/asset/dcat_application_profile/asset_release/dcat-ap-v11