Interview with Gianluigi Cogo, Digital Agenda and Homer Project in Veneto: Guest post by Matteo Brunati

Submitted on 28 May 2013 by ePSIplatform Team

Veneto region is where I live, and I love it. This region is working on its local Digital Agenda, and on some guidelines supported by a task force of experts. I had an interview with Gianluigi Cogo, who is the Program Manager of eGovernment Office at the regional government of Veneto, to speak about Digital Agenda and our region's related policies.

(*Q stands for the question, and A for the answer*) **Q:What is Veneto doing about both the Italian and the European Digital Agendas?** A: Veneto is implementing a strategic document, called "Guidelines for Digital Agenda of Veneto". This document explains themes, subjects, methods and concrete actions to realize digital standards to the full. The process we are building consists of 3 steps: asking for advice to stakeholders, asking for advice to local communities and realizing long-term projects (thanks to the EU structural funds). **Q: Are data reuse and practice reuse heart-felt themes? What do you think is the perception of these topics in Veneto?** A: These are cornerstones of Digital Agenda. We think that data promotes both transparency of the public sector and new digital jobs and savings. We are referring to what is commonly called "data as service". Open data will soon be a strong base for valuable services and applications. Thanks to that, new business opportunities will be available. **Q: In 2012, Veneto published dati.veneto.it. What kind of feedback did it receive?** A: Currently, we are collecting existing datasets. We are, also, making known the web platform. There weren't big problems or oppositions. Now, the goal is to apply metadata to reach Linked Open Data standards. **Q: Which kind of problems did it face?** A:The main problem, with dati.veneto.it, was the lack of knowledge. We overcame this situation with both meetings and seminars. I'd like to underline the fact that, in Veneto, public policies and public managers had recognized very quickly the inner potential of Open Data. **Q: What reactions do businesses have about reuse?** A: I don't have any indicators about it yet. The work with Veneto's companies will start after summer. Currently, we are focusing on collecting data. **Q: Many associations and citizen's initiatives are currently starting and growing to support digital culture, both locally and nationally. What do you think about it?** A: That's great! Everyone can do something, but it's not enough. I have always spent a lot of time and energies to support a massive mainstream action. During 1960s, Alberto Manzi taught to million of Italians how to write and how to read. Nowadays, we need a someone like him: a tv-anchor that teaches us how to use internet and how to make headways. **Q:What does it mean, for Veneto, to be part of European projects such as the Project HOMER?** A: It means ask for advice, debate, understand and learn. HOMER allows us to see best practices around Europe. Some states are doing better than us, but some are doing worse: we can learn from both (what to do and what to avoid)! In my opinion, HOMER is really exciting: for the first time Open Data's portals are

together in one place! We can also share semantic vocabularies and schemas, and that's great! We, as Digital Agenda Veneto, have to manage [Hack4Med](). Hack4Med is an hackathon expect for spring 2014. It will be in 5 different countries at the same time. Contestants are going to work with datasets we are currently collecting. **Q: Some wish for the future?** A: My personal wish is about my children and our future generations. May they live in a less conservative country, with more active citizens. May they live in a place where digital innovation is not associate with fear, but with opportunities and benefits for all.