Open Data in Italy - some interesting signals of augmented government

Submitted on 02 Jul 2013 by Matteo Brunati

Open Data in Italy has a lot to tell about some stories characterised by a really interesting bottom-up approach.
I like the idea that **we should innovate without permission**, as **David Osimo** said some time ago and many other experts agreed. " We can make an **augmented government** with the right tools"

Here are some notes on what's happening in **Italy** around these topics:

Working Groups to help municipalities going through Open Data

There is a news on epsiplatform about Alessandria and its initiative related to a multi-stakeholders approach to Open Data. **Alessandria** is a municipality which has a *default*: It's interesting how trasparency and re-use of data will help a better governance,
This isn't a novelty: Florence had opened Open Data supported by Wikitalia, standing on the shoulders of its communities. We, as a community, can be a sort of "push" actors, and supporters against those who don't understand the value of these actions inside the government and the administration.
There is also the case of **Palermo**, who has been publishing Open Data since the 23rd of February (*which was the International Open Data Day*). Palermo is working to make Open Data an ongoing process, and not only an event fixed during the time. A process which will involve all interested stakeholders who live in the city.

This is the reaction to another action, a blog post written by Andrea Borruso on the quality of the data released, and on the overall process. A post where Andrea made a new dataset from the data released, helping the municipality to think about the value of the quality of the data. This post was shared with the community of Spaghetti Open Data, and gained a lot of attention. The municipality, after a public meeting on this topic, has started a working group to make the overall approach to Open Data a better one. Palermo now wants to make more Open Data, with more attention on the quality of the data, and with a shared strategy with the community.

Data Journalism and Envinroment

Cittadini reattivi is an investigative report service about measures taken to reclaim in Italy. In addition to Data Journalism initiatives, it collects citizens, associations and committees about this topic.

A blog post exposes the situation about reclaim and Open Data. According to the special committee about waste offence, there are delays and possibilities of crimes on reclaim services. Open Data released doesn't always help: mostly, this data is incomplete (type of pollutant or reclaiming operations are often missing) or not free to be consult.
This initiative try to make a wake up call for institutions and public sector through pointing out what citizens are asking for.

Open call for experts on Open Pompei project, with new ideas on governance

After [the launch of the initiative "Open Pompei"](#), **Alberto Cottica** made an [open call for experts](#) who will help the initiative in the future: it's only a possibility of collaboration, it isn't a contract. It's an experiment, another way to hack society and burocracy. It's a way to hack social contracts behind a structured project.

It's a hot topic: this initiative receives european funds, and the law related doesn't manage easily small collaborations with a lot of experts involved. If the knowledge you need is always out there, how manage this kind of crowdsourcing with traditional contracts?

It seems that it works: two days ago [there was the first meeting with some experts and the institution](#), and the work is started, from an overall comprehension of Open Data context and reuse.