

# Open Data policies at EU level: state of play and outlook for 2014

Submitted on 04 Feb 2014 by Szymon Lewandowski

From the perspective of the EU's Open Data policies, 2013 was a very busy year. It began with a series of intensive negotiations on the revision of the PSI Directive, which led to a successful conclusion of the legislative procedure by springtime. This amending Directive 2013/37/EU was thus adopted already in June, after a little more than a year of inter-institutional deliberations.

Almost immediately afterwards, the consultation process was launched in order to prepare non-binding Commission guidance that would facilitate a correct and speedy transposition of the newly published rules. A series of meetings and public hearings were held to complement the online questionnaire, the input from which will help the Commission draft a series of recommendations in the areas of licencing, datasets and charging for the re-use of public sector information.

2013 was also the year of international recognition of an Open Data approach, with the signature of the G8 Open Data charter and the adoption of several commitments that will bind the EU in its future Open Data activities.

As we look ahead at 2014, the transposition of the recently revised PSI Directive will certainly be one of the main issues to follow. The Commission will provide legal assistance to the Member States, including in the form of the guidelines on different aspects of PSI re-use. We will need to make sure the implementation process runs smoothly, so that the expected impact of the opening-up of government data can benefit Europe's society and economy as early as possible.

The EU will in parallel continue supporting measures designed to make public sector information more easily accessible across Europe, and has earmarked funding in the recent Connecting Europe Facility Programme (CEF) for the setting up of a dedicated pan-EU Open Data infrastructure. Similarly, Open Data initiatives with market potential will be eligible for funding from the newly introduced Horizon 2020 framework programme for research and innovation.

Throughout the year, our colleagues from different Commission services will be busy integrating Open Data principles into their sectoral policies. The new open dissemination regime of the satellite data generated by European Space Agency (ESA) and the future legislative proposal on open access to transport and traffic data are but two examples of this growing trend.

In short, last year's major legal and financial developments laid the necessary groundwork for the launching of new Open Data initiatives in 2014. Needless to say, I am confident that in 2014, just as in 2013, the ePSI Platform, through its expertise and networking activities, will continue the important job of shaping the evolving European Open Data landscape with its usual enthusiasm and dedication.

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