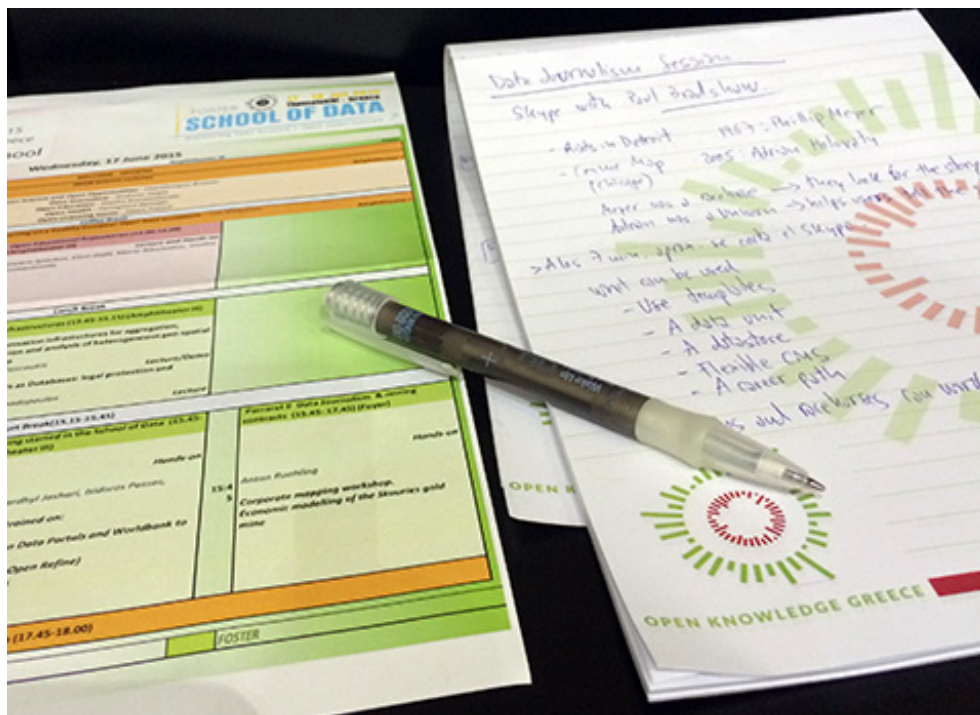# ePSI Platform in Thessaloniki at the event "Discovering Open Science – Open Opportunities"

Submitted on 30 Jun 2015 by Luis Meijueiro

On 17th and 18th June, the event "Discovering Open Science- Open Opportunities" was held in Thessaloniki, Greece - organised by Open Knowledge Greece and funded by the 7th PM project FOSTER (Facilitate Open Science Training for European Research).

The morning session on the 17th started with a welcome from Aristoteles University. The first speaker was Charalampos Bratsas, president of the Greek Chapter of the Open Knowledge Foundation and ePSI Platform correspondent for Greece. Professor Charalampos began by describing what the Open Knowledge Foundation is and what it promotes. The definitions of several concepts followed, e.g. Open Science, Open Access, Open Data and Open Knowledge. The latter was stressed as the transformation of Open Data into value for citizens. Charalampos ended his speech by calling for an increase in Open Data processes and showing some examples in different fields (health, education and journalism) in which Open Data shows great potential. These were the main fields of analysis and discussion during the event.

Next, Andreas Veglis, professor at the Media Informatics Lab (MIL) of Aristoteles University, spoke about data journalism, tackling its definition and its main phases or stages. He also spoke in depth on ways of practicing data-based journalism and connected this with the importance of data visualisations. Finally, he numbered several extant activities and resources for the promotion of data journalism in Greece, such as the local version of the Data Journalism Handbook and the Verification Handbook.

The next speeches about Open Education and Open Health were given by Statis Knostantindis. Statis opened by defining Open Education and the history of this concept. He also spoke about the standards in Education (such as EQF and e-CF) and the use of linked-data in the educational field. MOOCs also formed part of his speech with some instances of the most popular platforms.

Afterwards, in Open Health he focused on the long tradition of massive data processing on health and medical research. This undoubtedly connects with current Big and Open Data Trends. In conclusion, he explained some examples of the types of health-data that are currently available in open format and also stressed the economic saving potential that could come from opening further data in this field.

Gwen Franck, from Creative Commons, closed the first part of the programme. She explained in detail the characteristics of creative commons licenses and she gave several examples of the benefits of its use by the Scientific Community.

After a coffee break, Luis Meijueiro (representing ePSI Platform) took to the stage to present the different activities that are being developed within this EC initiative in order to spur the processes of Public Sector Information Re-use. Specific details related with the health and data journalism fields were also put under focus. You can download our presentation here.

On 18th June, ePSI was actively involved in a School of Data hands-on workshop on Open Budgets, by joining one of the participating teams. We shared knowledge and experiences about cases and trends in the re-use of open budget data (types of useful visualisations, sets of data that could be combined with budget data, etc.). The aim was to find a journalistic story that could be based on budgetary data (either Greek or from elsewhere in the world). At the end of the workshop many good proposals for data-driven stories were collected.

After this experience we finally joined a data visualisation session led by Ignasi Alcalde who showed the audience how to deliver data and engaging stories supported by stunning infographics. He also explained some of the best design practices behind them with real examples.

File:
Reporting on a healthy European Open Data ecosystem