Regione Toscana, vision and strategy on Open Data.

Authors:
Davide Bruno, Coordinator Working Group Open Data Regione Toscana and
Fernanda Faini, Supervisor Legal support e-government and open government, Regione Toscana

Toscana's Open Data portal (http://dati.toscana.it) was developed by CKAN with several customisations, and launched in July 2012. It aims to encourage the publication of openly-licensed data by public administrations.

Regione Toscana is achieving an effective open government in its territory, in the belief that the open administration does not only coincide with the opening of the data, but also in a new philosophy and a horizontal relationship participated with other institutions as well as with the community.

The Regional Law 19, 18th February 2015,focused on open government and open data such as their re-use, makes this vision effective and concrete, following a strategic path started with a regional resolution on this subject (n. 23 of January 21, 2013 "Implementation Platform open data and approving guidelines laying down general criteria for open data in the Region of Tuscany").
In this context the multi-platform Open Toscana (http://open.toscana.it/) aims to bring the administration closer to citizens and enterprises, making the access to data and services more friendly.

With Open Toscana anyone can not only find and use Tuscan open data but can have a proactive role: it's possible to promote ideas, share experiences in order to help Regione Toscana to improve the quality of the data.

The platform to open data (http://dati.toscana.it), can host datasets for public administration and private enterprises through the automatic federation of the portals: the platform provides, via a meta data catalogue, a single point of access to data of the region. It is in turn federated with national portal and with the European one.

Currently about 1400 datasets are published on the platform, mostly licensed under CC-BY license and therefore reusable even for commercial purposes: some have been used by Apple, Bing, Microsoft, but also from local start-ups. Regione Toscana is in fact CC-BY by default.

The Tuscan law pays particular attention to the participation and collaboration both inside and outside the Region. Inside it outlines the organizational process, clarifies the role of the different structures involved. The managers of Regione Toscana, are directly responsible on the percentage of data sets published in this platform and about their quality.

Since 2013 a permanent interdisciplinary working group of ICT experts, jurists, digital media strategist etc is active with the task of addressing issues related to open data and support the dissemination activities.

Open Toscana allows a constant dialogue with stakeholders, citizens, associations and private enterprises: it provides the chance of proposing and reporting, Regione Toscana is committed to respond. So Regione Toscana is open on demand.

Regione Toscana promotes digital culture, by virtual spaces and hackathons where public and private actors can co-design services and apps in cooperative ways using open data.

The platform of open data is available for the FI-WARE project, an acceleration programme that

aims to venture capitalists to transform the best ideas in successful business that the digital market is demanding focusing on small and medium-sized enterprises.

Regione Toscana is also a partner of the European project Fusepool P3 as "Data Provider", which aims to develop an integrated platform as part of big data, applied semantics, multilingualism, for the creation of open linked data. Fusepool P3 project is developing one of the first implementations of Linked Data Platform (LDP) specified as a standard by the W3C together with a number of other components (eg. For the data mapping, automatic linking, etc.), with the aim to provide a complete experimental pipeline to the production, processing, management and publication of so-called linked data, from non-linked data.

The Tuscans datasets are already available on European Data Portal, the primary purpose of the portal is to harvest the metadata of national, regional and local Open Data portals and act as a single point of access to all Open Data available across Europe. All metadata are available in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish thus it makes real this scenario: a London developer will be able to find and legally use for own app datasets published by a small municipality like Cascina.