

Best Practice: Categorise openness of data

25 July 2016

This version

<http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/bp/cod-20160725/>

Latest version

<http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/bp/cod/>

Previous version

<http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/bp/cod-20160627/>

This is one of [a set of Best Practices](#) for implementing the [\(Revised\) PSI Directive](#) developed by the [Share-PSI 2.0 Thematic Network](#).

Share-PSI Best Practice: Categorise openness of data by [Share-PSI 2.0](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#).

Outline

Establishing a simple system to categorise the openness of data makes it easier for public sector organisations to determine with whom data can be shared.

Links to the Revised PSI Directive

[Selection](#)

Challenge

How to ensure that data is shared with the authorised users and to identify datasets which can be easily opened up for all?

Public sector organisations often only consider

- what can be open for all and don't think about datasets which can be shared or
- get concerned about the difficult datasets which cannot be opened, rather than identifying the low hanging fruit which can be made easily available.

However, it may also be useful to publish data that can be shared under certain restrictions.

Solution

Descriptions on both open data and data with legal restrictions can be published with an indication of who it can be shared with. DCAT-APs "access right" property can be used for this purpose, combined with a color code system for end users.

- :public (green) for data that can be made available with no restrictions;
- :restricted (yellow) for data that is not open for all and has some restrictions, and data which an

- organisation may be unsure of the status of;
- :non public (red) for data that is sensitive and can only be made available under strict conditions.

A colour code is not the only way to denote the category of data openness. Other schemes with a similar meaning could be used as well.

Why is this a Best Practice?

The categorisation is simple. It is not designed to facilitate a deep and exhaustive mapping of data in an organisation, but rather it allows for an initial overview and categorisation to get the ball rolling.

+

By providing transparency on what information your agency holds, it is possible for reusers to provide feedback on your priorities and for other public sector bodies to discover datasets they potentially can reuse (under certain legal restrictions).

How do I implement this Best Practice?

The only major requirement here is that someone has responsibility to perform this for the organisation. Technical requirements are minimal. Some simple tools are necessary to assist in the identification and release of some data early.

Establish an overview of managed datasets in your organization and implement a basic legal examination of the content of each dataset. Use DCAT-APs access rights property to indicate level of openness.

Where has this best practice been implemented?

Country	Implementation	Contact Point
Norway	Difi Traffic Light System	Heather Broomfield, Difi.

References

- [Samos Workshop Story: Traffic Light System For Data Sharing](#)
- Open Data Institute guidance: [The data spectrum](#)
- Open Data Institute guidance: [What makes data open?](#)
- Open Data Institute guidance: [What are the impacts of non-open licences?](#)

Local Guidance

This Best Practice is cited by, or is consistent with, the advice given within the following guides:

- (Austria) [Framework for Open Government Data Platforms](#)
- (Belgium) [Open Data Handleiding](#) Open Data Handbook
- (Croatia) [Preporuke o prilagodbi skupova podataka za javnu objavu i ponovno korištenje](#) Open Data Guide, Croatia
- (CzechRepublic) [Standardy publikace a katalogizace otevřených dat veřejné správy ČR](#) Open

Data Standards

- (Finland) [Avoimen Datan Opas](#) Open Data Guide
- (Hungary) [Nyílt Adatok kézikönyv](#) Open Data Handbook
- (International) [Open Data Handbook, Solutions Bank](#)
- (Ireland) [Guide for publishers](#)
- (Lithuania) [Viešojo Sektoriaus Informacijos platinimo gerosios praktikos](#) Best Practices for Sharing Public Sector Information
- (Luxembourg) [Recommandations pour l'ouverture des données publiques](#) Recommendations for opening data
- (Malta) [PSI Directive Implementation & Internal Data Sharing Platform \(draft\)](#)
- (Serbia) [Open Data Handbook](#)
- (Slovenia) [Priročnik za odpiranje podatkov javnega sektorja](#) Manual for the opening of public sector information
- (Spain) [Guía de aplicación de la Norma Técnica de Interoperabilidad de reutilización de recursos de información](#) Application Guide for Technical Interoperability Standard on PSI re-use
- (UK) [Open Data Resource Pack](#)

Contact Info

[Heather Broomfield](#), [Difi](#) (Norway).

Related Best Practices

- [Identify what you already publish](#)
- [Publish overview of managed data](#)
- [Provide data unavailability reference](#)

Issue Tracker

Any matters arising from this BP, including implementation experience, lessons learnt, places where it has been implemented or guides that cite this BP can be recorded and discussed on the project's [GitHub repository](#)