
EUROGI
Policy Position Paper on
OPEN DATA

Maurice Barbieri
Member of EUROGI Executive Committee
maurice.barbieri@sogi.ch

INSPIRE GWF 2015
Lisbon, Portugal, 25(28) May2015



Introduction

« *Information is the currency of democracy* »



Thomas Jefferson
(1743-1826)



Introduction



„My Administration is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in Government. We will work together to ensure the public trust and establish a system of **transparency, public participation, and collaboration**. Openness will strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government.“

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

BARACK OBAMA, January 21st 2009



Government spending data published

The Government has today published detailed spending data allowing the public to see for the first time how money is spent and hold politicians to account. As part of the ongoing drive to make Government more accountable, efficient and transparent than ever before, departments have published details of spending over **£25,000** for the last six months.

Friday 19 November 2010



Aim of the work

The Open Data Work Group which has the responsibility for producing a draft paper has identified on a preliminary basis a number of questions which need to be explored in order to produce a policy paper, including:

- What is Open Data?
- What is unique about GI/GT in an Open Data context?
- What is the current Open Data policy context at the EU level, and at the national state level?
- Who are the major stakeholders at the EU level for Open Data?
- What is the current situation regarding the availability of open GI data across Europe?
- How does Open Data impact on a range of policies/topics (INSPIRE, Green Economy, governance transparency, Copernicus, etc)?
- What are the GI datasets which should be made open, maybe with priorities indicated?
- What are the opportunities and constraints in a variety of areas (eg job creation, governance, health, security, etc) and how should they be addressed from a policy perspective?
- What are some good/best practices examples from a GI/GT perspective?



What is Open Data?

*“**Open Data** is data which is made available in non-proprietary machine-readable formats to be freely reused by anybody*

*“**Open data** is the idea that certain data should be freely available to everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control.” – Wikipedia*



Ten principles of Open Data

- 1. Completeness**
- 2. Primacy**
- 3. Timeliness**
- 4. Ease of Physical and Electronic Access**
- 5. Machine readability**
- 6. Non-discrimination**
- 7. Use of Commonly Owned Standards**
- 8. Licensing**
- 9. Permanence**
- 10. Usage Costs**



EU Open Data Strategy

European Council Conclusions, 24-25 October 2013

“Open data is an untapped resource with a huge potential for building stronger, more interconnected societies that better meet the needs of the citizens and allow innovation and prosperity to flourish. Interoperability and the re-use of public sector information shall be promoted actively”



EU Open Data Strategy

European Commission – Digital Agenda

“Open data refers to the idea that certain data should be freely available for use and re-use.”

We support open data for 4 reasons:

- Public data has significant potential for re-use in new products and services;
- Addressing societal challenges – having more data openly available will help us discover new and innovative solutions;
- Achieving efficiency gains through sharing data inside and between public administrations;
- Fostering participation of citizens in political and social life and increasing transparency of government.



EU Open Data Portals

International

- publicdata.eu
- data.un.org
- data.worldbank.org

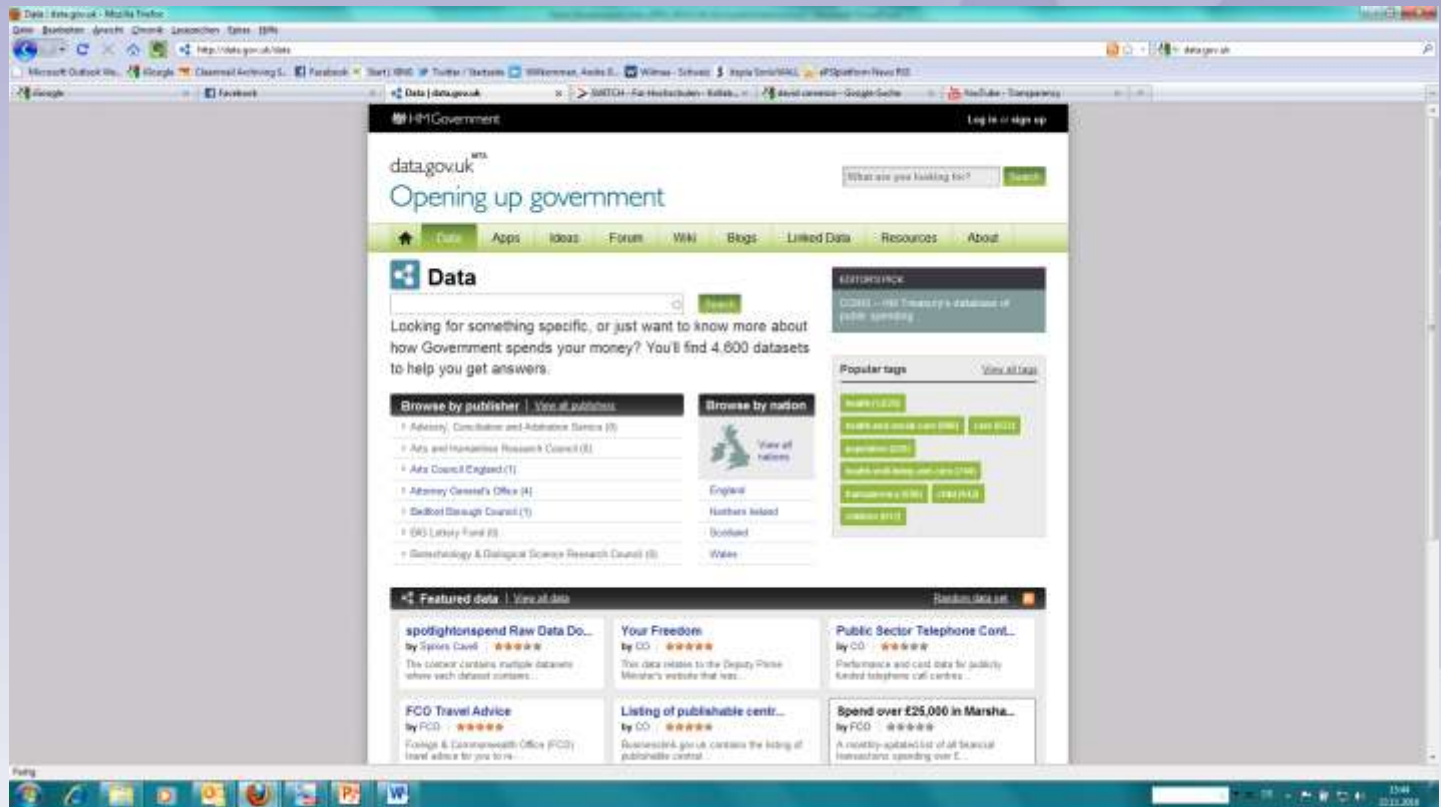
EU Member States

- publicdata.belgium.be
- govdata.de
- opendata.ee
- data.gov.ie
- data.gov.gr
- datos.gob.es
- data.gouv.fr
- dati.gov.it
- data.gov.mt
- data.overheid.nl
- data.gv.at
- dados.gov.pt
- data.gov.sk
- opnadata.se
- data.gov.uk
- opendata.cz
- opendata.gov.lt
- nio.gov.si/nio/
- danepubliczne.gov.pl
- data.gov.ro
- avoindata.fi
- digitaliser.dk



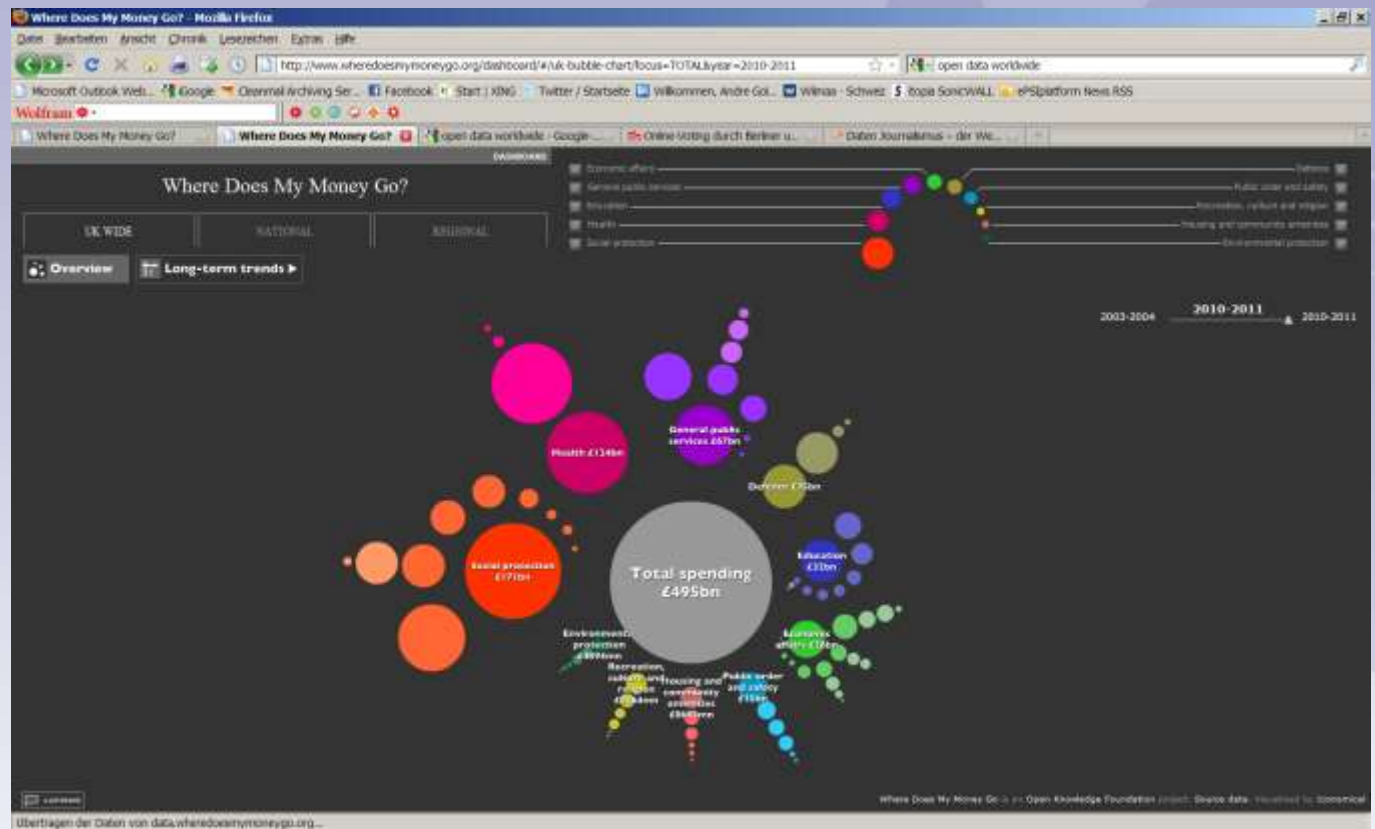
Some examples of OGD

Data.gov.uk



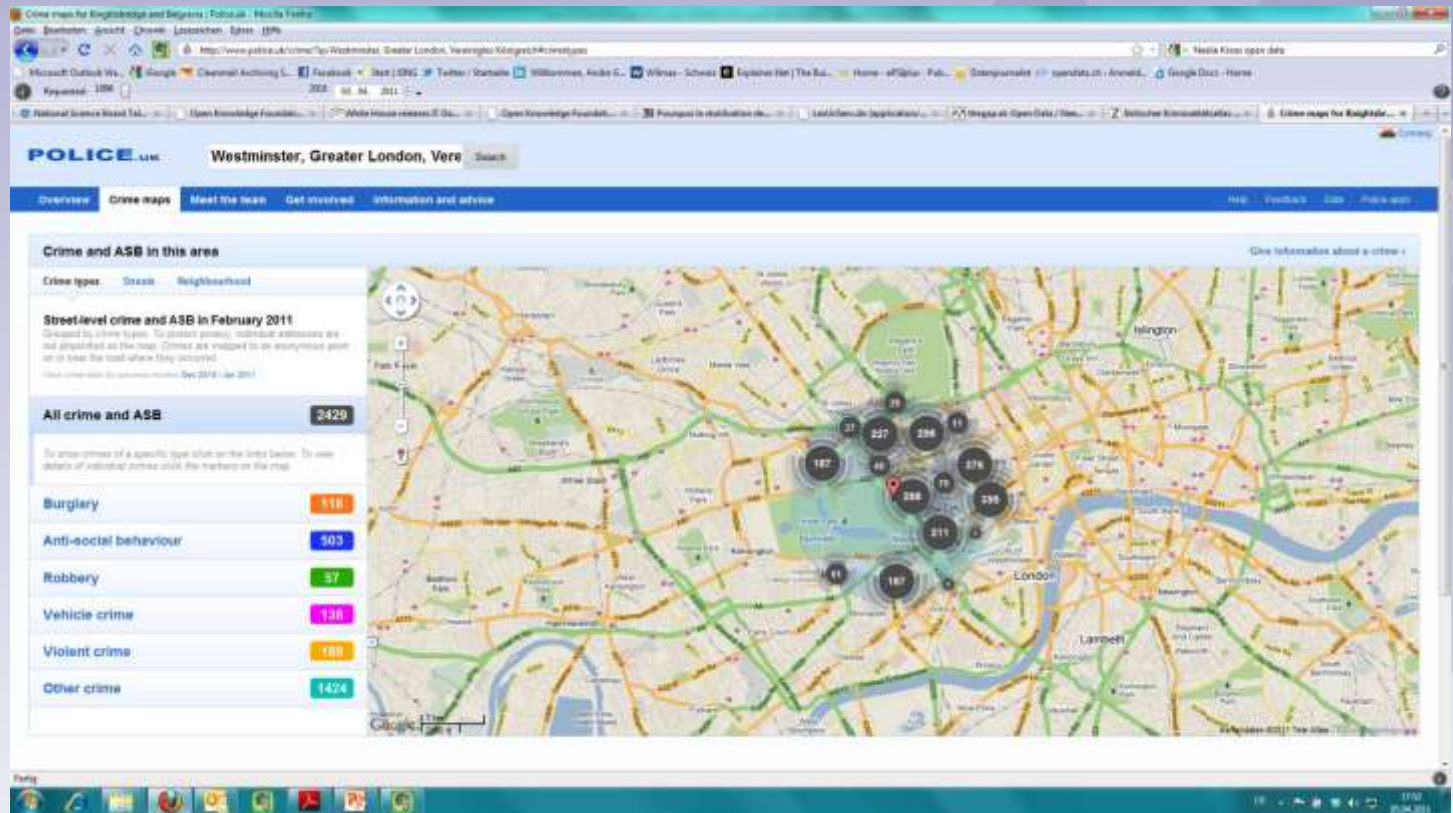
Some examples of OGD

UK: Where does my money go?



Some examples of OGD

UK: Criminality atlas



Some examples of OGD

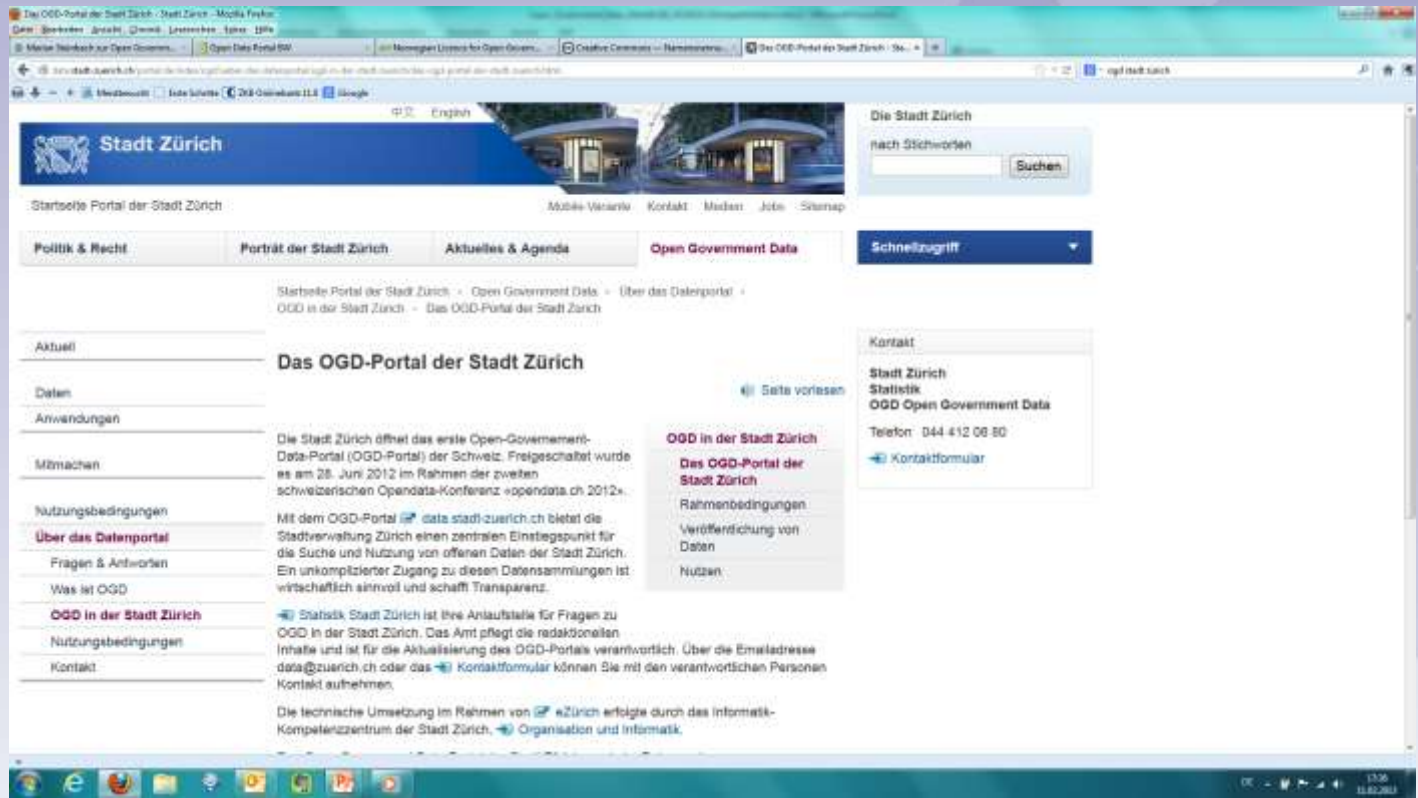
Pilot Portal opendata.admin.ch

The screenshot displays the homepage of the Swiss Open Government Data Pilot Portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Data', 'Applications', 'FAQ', 'Organisations', and 'About the portal'. A language selector in the top right corner offers 'Deutsch', 'Français', 'Italiano', and 'English'. The main heading is 'Swiss Open Government Data', followed by a description: 'The open government data pilot portal contains 1824 datasets that you can use – for simple evaluations or combinations and to develop applications and visual representations.' Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search e.g. by weather, initiatives, families ...'. The page is divided into two main sections: 'Categories' and 'Applications'. The 'Categories' section lists 'Politics (1499)', 'Health (116)', and 'Territory and environment (99)'. The 'Applications' section features a card for 'Regionalportrait Schweiz' with a map of Switzerland and buttons for 'VS' and 'BE'.



Some examples of OGD

City of Zurich



Which kind of Data?



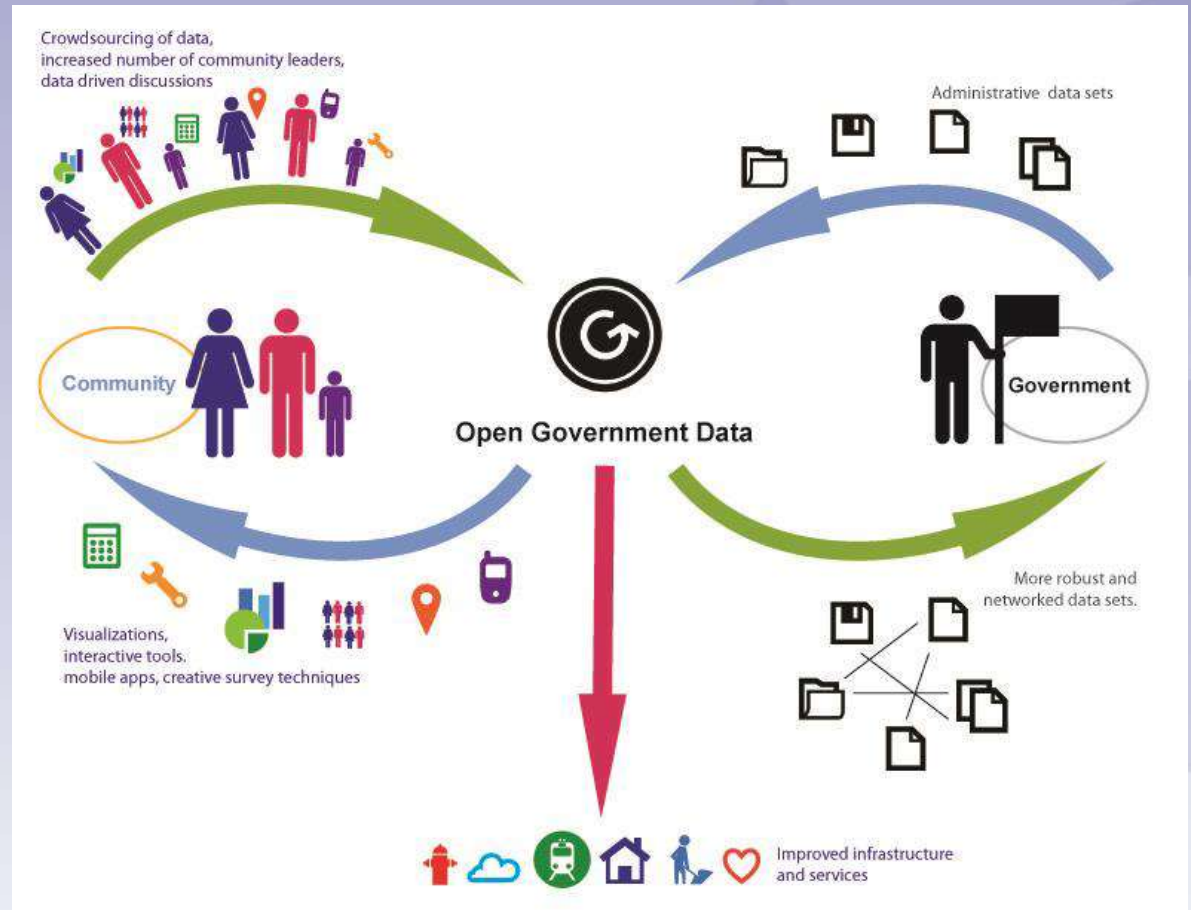
Basic principles

- **No personal or sensible data**



Basic principles

- **Virtuous circle**



Basic principles

- **Multilingualism**

EU – EU - Languages

<http://www.publicdata.eu>

<http://open-data.europa.eu>

Canada – EN, FR

<http://data.gc.ca> - <http://donnees.gc.ca>

France – FR, EN, DE

<http://data.gouv.fr>

Spain – Castellano, Català, Galego, Euskera,
Valencià, EN

<http://datos.gov.es>

Switzerland – DE, FR, IT, EN

<http://opendata.admin.ch>



Basic principles

- **Harmonization of metadata: why?**

By using a common metadata schema to describe datasets in catalogues:

- **Data providers** increase discoverability and reusability, preserve content, metadata and knowledge overtime
- **Data re-users** can easily search across platforms without facing difficulties caused by the use of separate models or language differences (interoperability).
- The quality of the description metadata directly affects how easily datasets can be found



Conclusions - Recommendations

Open Government Data to Open Data

Legal framework

Data standards

Awareness raising

Provide Access to the Data

Metadata



Don't waist your money, Mom, I can download it for you...

