



MODULE 1

INFORMATION & DATA LITERACY

Open data Portals and Platforms

Explorer Level Activities



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DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

A **platform** is a major piece of software on which smaller pieces of software and content can be run. For open data, the largest platform is the Web. However, lots of other purpose-built software can help you publish open data, or provide interactive tools to help you explore it.

What is an open data platform?

Open data platforms are pieces of software that make it simpler to publish and manage open data on the Web. For publishers, an open data platform provides a pathway to publish data. Platforms guide publishers through the process of publishing data, and offer users consistency and ease of access to open data from around the world.

Key features of open data platforms

Open data platforms make on open data

- *Discoverable*
Open data platforms
 - promote open data to users,
 - allow users to quickly find and reuse relevant open data,
 - are search-optimised to make it easier to find relevant resources and
 - provide data-feeds that can be discovered and indexed across the web
- *Usable in a consistent way*
Open data platforms
 - don't use a lot of different technologies to discover large amounts of open data,
 - are designed with the user in mind. Their layout and design can make it easier to discover data, while
 - many governments even have standard naming conventions for the Web address, like `data.gov.<country top-level domain>` (e.g. <http://data.gov.gr>).

Approaches to open data platform design

Platforms provide different approaches to publishing and exposing open data. Discover the different approaches below.

Data catalogue

An open data catalogue is a platform that

- lists datasets on the Web
- resembles directories.
- knows
 - what open data exists,
 - what open data is about,
 - where open data is and
 - how to get hold of open data.



- links users to data that is located somewhere else on the Web
- offers a consistent way of locating a diverse set of data that is widely scattered.

Data management

Open data management platforms from the publisher's point of view

- can play an active role in the way a *publisher*
 - manages a dataset
 - maintains a dataset
- can allow *publishers* to
 - update data directly in the platform and
 - regularly provide updates.

From the *user's* point of view

- searching for open data and
 - manipulating open data
- without having to download* it can make reusing it a lot easier.

Open data portals

Open data portals are web-based interfaces designed to make it easier to find re-usable information. Like library catalogues, they contain metadata records of datasets published for re-use, i.e. mostly relating to information in the form of raw, numerical data and not to textual documents. In combination with specific search functionalities, they facilitate finding datasets of interest.

European Data Portal

The [European Data Portal](#) constitutes the main portal for open data across European countries. It harvests the metadata of Public Sector Information available on public data portals across European countries. Information regarding the provision of data and the benefits of re-using data is also included.

About the European Data Portal

Going beyond the harvesting of metadata, the strategic objective of the European Data Portal is to improve accessibility and increase the value of Open Data. For more information visit <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/en/about/european-data-portal>

Provides:

- data catalogue search capability
- dataset search capability
- eLearning section
- Impact & studies on various aspects
- News & Events



Activity: Explore the [European Data Portal](#) and visit the [Data](#) section where you can search for datasets applying various filters as file formats, data scope, metadata quality, license of the data.

1st example: Data scope = Europe, Categories = Environment, Metadata Quality= Excellent

How many datasets does it return?

change -> Metadata Quality= Good+

How many datasets does it return now?

Check the number of datasets in different formats.

2nd example: try to search with the Keyword = “honey”

How many datasets does it return?

choose category = “Agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food”

How many datasets does it return?

Experiment with categories, topics and keywords of your interest to get familiar with this important resource for datasets.

Activity

The OpenDataMonitor project is a European index of open data sites and provides a useful reference guide (<https://www.opendatamonitor.eu/frontend/web/index.php>).

- Explore the index (or/and the map) to discover what percentage of
 - open licensed data
 - machine readable data
 - available data
 - metadata completenessis available for different countries?
- Explore the index (or/and the map) to discover the distribution size of the data.
- Visit the advanced search capability and filter by your country
 - Check how many data catalogues there are.
(Notice you can select to search either for Data Catalogues or individual Datasets.)
- Click on the [Benchmark](#) link
 - Select two or more countries to compare
 - Select a time period, if you like
 - Investigate the produced comparative graphs on different factors (open licenses, availability and more)

Other Open Data Portals, Dataset Search Engines and Open Resources

- <https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/home>
 - Open data published by EU institutions and bodies
- [About | Open Data Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)
 - At the bottom there is a Related open data websites’ list of EU Member States and some International, for example:
 - <http://data.gov.be>
 - <https://data.oecd.org>
 - <http://data.un.org>
 - <http://data.worldbank.org>
 - And more...



- Eurostat (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/home>)
 - The statistical office of the European Union
- <https://dataportals.org/>
 - List of Open Data Portals from around the world
 - Run by Open Knowledge Foundation)
- Dataset Search ([google.com](https://datasetsearch.google.com/))
 - Google’s Dataset Search Engine for datasets

References:

- [Getting to grips with platforms \(europeandataportal.eu\)](https://europeandataportal.eu/)
- [European Data Portal | European Data Portal](#)

TOOLS DATA & RESOURCES NEEDED

- Web Browser (Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Opera, etc.)

TIME REQUIRED

- 15 minutes: study the material
- 5 minutes: first activity
- 10 minutes: second activity