



# MODULE 1

## INFORMATION & DATA LITERACY

**Why do we need to license?**

**What are Creative Commons Licences?**

***Explorer Level Activities***



## Why do we need to license and What are Creative Commons Licences?

### DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

#### “Why do we need licences?”

For the case of open data, the following statement is of great value and importance: “Without a licence, data cannot be truly open”. Therefore, data which are shared with a licence become Open Data. A licence tells anyone that they can access, use and share one’s data. Unless you have a licence, data may be “publicly available”, but users will not have permission to access, use and share it under copyright or database laws.

There are different types of licences, but the simpler the licence, the better. There are lots of different licences. To maximize reuse, try to adopt a licence standard that is already widely used.

#### Creative Commons licences

Creative Commons licences are widely used for open content. Version 4.0 explicitly considers data licensing. In the following URL you can see a 5-minute introduction to all parts of a CC licence.

<https://creativecommons.org/get-cc-savvy/breaking-cc-licenses>

#### Question:

“Which versions of Creative Commons licences are the most suitable for open data?”

Three Creative Commons versions are most suitable for an open licence:

- Public domain: **(CC0)** ([Show a Public Domain Licence](#))
- Attribution: **(CC-BY v4.0)** ([Show an Attribution licence](#))
- Attribution & share-alike: **(CC-BY-SA v4.0)** ([Show an Attribution & ShareAlike Licence](#))

The public domain and attribution licences give more flexibility in the use of data while a share-alike licence may limit the commercial use of the data.

#### Question:

Can you explain why the other versions of the Creative Commons Licences are not suitable for open data?

Exercise (source: <https://creativecommons.org/get-cc-savvy/breaking-cc-licenses>)

For each one of the following icons, explain in a sentence or two what you can and cannot do with works that someone has shared under that licence.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



### Other types of Licences

- Bespoke/custom-made licences
  - are created by the data publisher
  - introduce specific conditions with which the user must comply
  - can increase complexity for users of open data
  - usually are difficult for users to comply with
- Open Government Licences
  - Some publishers have chosen to develop their own licences
  - Examples:
    - [Licence Ouverte / Open Licence | Le blog d'etalab](#)
    - [Open Government Licence \(nationalarchives.gov.uk\)](#)

### Activity - How to locate a licence

Open data publishers should provide easy access to the licence for all datasets that are available to access, use and share. The location and layout of licence information may vary according to jurisdiction, industry and individual style. Best practice suggests that licences should be easy to find and read.

Visit the following open data catalogues and browse or search for some datasets.

- <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/data/datasets>
- [Find open data - data.gov.uk](#)
- [Data.gov.sg](#)
- Or find another Data Catalogue to explore

For each dataset

- locate **where** and **what** kind of licences, if applicable, have been adopted
- in case there is no licence available, discuss in what extent and kind of activities (for example commercial or not) you can use the particular dataset,
- in case you cannot locate a licence, what could you do to learn under what licence are the data available? Maybe ask the publisher? Maybe search deeper to the metadata of the dataset?

### TOOLS DATA & RESOURCES NEEDED

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

### TIME REQUIRED

- 10 minutes: visit URL and watch video
- 10 minutes for two questions
- 15 minutes for activity