

European Data Portal

Measuring open data maturity

Fifth edition, 2019

The purpose of this document is to present an overview of the yearly open data maturity assessment adopted by the European Data Portal (EDP).

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1 Background and objective of the landscaping exercise

Since its launch in 2015, the [European Data Portal](#) (EDP) has been the main point of access at EU level to find public sector information published across Europe. The EDP covers a broad range of activities from deploying, maintaining, and updating the EDP infrastructure, the provision of learning material and research reports on various open data topics, to assistance for the national open data teams in the form of maturity assessments, tailored support, and strategic advice activities to enable their successful open data transformation.

The EDP objective is to improve access to open data, foster high-quality open data publication at national, regional and local level, and increase its impact. Within this remit, the European Data Portal has been conducting an annual landscaping exercise providing the EU28+ countries with an assessment of their maturity level and documenting their year-on-year progress since 2015. The landscaping exercise offers a benchmarking and learning tool at both national as well as European level. It supports countries to better understand their level of maturity, to capture their progress and the areas for improvement, and benchmark this against other countries. At the same time, the landscaping provides the evidence on which both generic and targeted support activities for the EU Member States is based.

In the period 2015-2017 the annual open data maturity measurement was built on two key indicators: “readiness” and “maturity”, covering the policy developments at country level as well as the level of sophistication of the national open data portals. To better reflect the open data developments taking place across Europe, a major update to the landscaping methodology was carried out in 2018. The 2018 methodology made the assessment more ambitious and comprehensive and set a stronger focus on the quality of open data as well as the re-use and impact derived by open data. The scope of the assessment has hence been broadened to comprise four dimensions: policy, portal, impact, and quality.

Against this background, the 2019 measurement was further developed to add new layers of granularity to the four dimensions. The updates to the questionnaire reflect progress in the European countries, the developments at EU level as well as national and EU priorities, such as the focus on real-time access to dynamic data and enabling smarter cities and countries. With the 2019 updates, the maturity assessment aims to provide further impulses for the national open data teams to redirect their focus on new strategic areas. Stronger prioritisation of high-quality open data publication, an active fostering of re-use and monitoring mechanisms of open data re-use, the development of advanced portal features, and the need for more inclusive and participative governance structures are the main highlights of the 2019 assessment.

2 Working definitions

This section provides a working definition of what is to be understood as open data:

Open (government) data refers to the information collected, produced or paid for by the public bodies (also referred to as Public Sector Information) and made freely available for re-use for any purpose.

Open data cannot be considered open if it is not accompanied by a licence that ensures its free re-use. Depending on the type of licences data is published under, the licence might stipulate that:

- Those who use the data must credit whoever is publishing it (this is called attribution)
- Those who combine the data with other data must release the results as open data as well (this is called share-alike).

These principles for open data are described in detail in the Open Definition.¹

Public Sector Information is information collected by the public sector. The PSI Directives of 2003 and 2013 and the Open Data Directive of 2019² provide a common legal framework for a European market for government-held data (Public Sector Information).

3 Work approach

To perform the landscaping exercise, several activities are conducted on a yearly basis:

- Step 1: Refine and update the landscaping methodology and questionnaire
- Step 2: Coordinate and assist national teams in filling out the landscaping questionnaire
- Step 3: Analyse and validate the data together with the national teams
- Step 4: Complement the results with additional desk research
- Step 5: Publish an in-depth report and country factsheets documenting the results and findings
- Step 6: Visualise the results on the dashboard of the European Data Portal
- Step 7: Produce an analytical report and webinars showcasing the top 3 best performing countries

4 Open data dimensions

Similar to past iterations of this research, the data was collected through a questionnaire sent to the national open data representatives working in collaboration with the European Commission and the Public Sector Information Expert Group. The questionnaire was structured against the four open data dimensions as outlined below and included detailed metrics for each dimension to assess the level of maturity. Dimensions and metrics were last specified at the time of the latest major revision of the methodology in 2018, and have since been maintained to improve clarity or address ambiguities in response to the open data representatives' feedback.

Open Data Policy focuses on the presence of specific policies and strategies to foster open data at national level. The dimension also analyses the existence of governance structures that allow the

¹ <http://opendefinition.org/>

² [Directive 2003/98/EC](#) of 17 November 2003, [Directive 2013/37/EU](#) of 26 June 2013, [Directive \(EU\)2019/1024](#) of 16 July 2019

participation of private and third sector actors, as well as implementation measures that enable open data initiatives at national, regional, and local level. Furthermore, the dimension looks at training schemes that enhance the data literacy skills of the civil servants working with data, and harvesting mechanisms that foster the discoverability of all open data available in the country.

Open Data Portal focuses on advanced portal functions that enable both versed and less versed users to access open data via the national portal and features that enhance the interaction between publishers and re-users (via forum and discussion boards). Additionally, the dimension assesses the extent to which portal managers use web analytics tools to better understand their users' needs and behaviour and update the portals' features in line with the insights gained from these analyses. The dimension examines the open data coverage across different domains, as well as the approach and measures in place to ensure the portal's sustainability.

Open Data Impact looks at the activities performed to monitor and measure open re-use and the impact derived by such re-use. Beyond this first layer of "strategic awareness", the impact dimension focusses on four areas of sectoral impact: political, social, environmental, and economic. Within these areas, the questionnaire examines the extent to which monitoring is in place to document the re-use of open data published in these fields, the extent to which applications, products, and services have been developed to address challenges in these fields, as well as the extent to which civil society initiatives exist that are based on such open data and supported by government institutions. With regard to the economic field, the questionnaire focuses on assessments, reports and/or studies that demonstrate the micro and macro-economic value of open data, as well as the efficiency gains achieved by the public sector.

Open Data Quality focuses on the measures adopted by portal managers to ensure the systematic harvesting of metadata from sources across the country, as well as the currency of the available metadata and where possible the actual data, the monitoring of the compliance with the DCAT-AP metadata standard as well as the quality of deployment of the published data. The fourth dimension provides impulses for portal managers and policy-makers to enable open data publication that is good quality all round: using open data formats, machine-readable, high-quality and suitable to a linked data approach (the use of URI's etc.).

5 Detailed dimensions and metrics

The indicators belonging to the four open data dimensions can be seen below.

Dimension 1: Open data policy	
Indicator	Policy framework
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Data policies and strategies are in place at national level. The open data policy/strategy has been updated in the past year. Opening PSI is mandatory at national level.
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national open data strategy incentivises the re-use of open data by both the public and private sectors. The national open data policy/strategy incentivises access to real-time data. The development of data inventories in the public bodies at national, regional and local levels is defined as priority in the national policy and/or strategy.
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority domains for data release have been identified at national level. Data publication is prioritised in collaboration with other stakeholders (re-users).
Indicator	Governance of open data
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An open data governance structure is in place, that ensures the publication of open data at all government levels. The governance structure enables the development of open data initiatives at local and regional levels.
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data stewards/ PSI officers are appointed at each public body level. A regular exchange between the data stewards as well as data publishers and re-users is ensured.
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various open data events are organised throughout the country to foster the exchange on the open data topic. The events are organised by a mix of actors (public sector bodies at national, regional and local levels, private sector, civil society, universities).
Indicator	Open data implementation
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines are in place to assist publication at national, regional and local levels. Holders of dynamic data are assisted in providing real-time access to their data.
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data publication plans exist at public body level and progress against these plans is monitored by the national level. Number of public bodies that still charge above marginal costs is monitored.
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional and local sources are systematically harvested by the national level. Percentage of harvested sources from total existing sources is known.
3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training activities for civil servants working with data are in place. The trainings provide a certification and/or are formally recognised as professional development for civil servants.

Dimension 2: Open data portal	
Indicator	Portal feature
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portal features ensure discoverability and access to datasets and relevant content. Advanced features enable users to contribute content to the portal, provide feedback on existing content and rate featured datasets.
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The portal enables users to find information and news on relevant open data topics in the country.

1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The portal enables the interaction and exchange between users and publishers as well as among re-users.
1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use cases are promoted via a designated section on the portal and mapped to the open data they are based on. Use cases can be submitted by different users to the portal.
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preview functions to both tabular and geospatial data are available.
1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data publishers and other interested parties can find information on tools that enable the work with data (e.g. Trifacta Wrangler, OpenRefine, Jupyter Notebook).
Indicator	Portal usage
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The portal is responsive via both mobile and desktop.
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic to the portal (number of unique visitors, visitor profiles, percentage of machine traffic etc.) is monitored by the portal managers.
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytics tools are used to derive insights into users' behaviour and needs. These insights are embedded into the portal update cycles.
2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most and least consulted categories and datasets are known. The most used search keywords are known, and updates are performed to ensure a better discoverability of available content.
2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> API usage is monitored and used to gain insights into user profiles (e.g. "power users").
Indicator	Data provision
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of data publishers can contribute data to the national portal. Data publishers that do not contribute to the national portal have been identified and actions taken to enable data publication from these sources.
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to real-time data is provided via the portal. The percentage of real-time data from total featured data is known.
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A separate section exists on the portal where community-sourced data can be uploaded.
Indicator	Portal sustainability
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sustainability strategy for the portal has been defined. Measures are in place to ensure the portal reaches its targeted audience.
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The portal team helps enhance the visibility of the portal and the featured datasets by organising/attending info sessions and/or events to promote the national portal.
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The source code and relevant documentation are available for the interested public. The national portal has accounts and an active presence on social media platforms.
4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> User satisfaction surveys on the national portal are regularly performed. The portal undergoes regular reviews. Users' feedback is considered in this review process.
4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The portal provides a dashboard with information on the main performance indexes. The dashboard enables data publishers to analyse their own publication activities and quality.

Dimension 3: Open data impact

Indicator	Strategic awareness
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-use of open data is monitored at national level via, for example, the national portal.

1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities are in place at public body level to boost and monitor the re-use of own published data.
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities are in place at national level to measure the re-use of open data. A methodology to measure the impact of open data is in place or first steps in this direction are taken.
Indicator	Political impact
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities have been launched to monitor the political impact of open data.
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various re-use examples exist that showcase the impact of open data on increasing government efficiency and effectiveness.
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various re-use examples exist that showcase the impact of open data on increasing transparency and accountability.
2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various re-use examples exist that showcase the impact of open data on enable better policy and decision-making processes.
2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil society initiatives that are open data driven and aim to tackle a challenge identified in the political field exist / are supported by government.
Indicator	Social impact
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities have been launched to monitor the social impact of open data.
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various re-use examples exist that showcase the impact of open data on a better inclusion of marginalised groups.
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various re-use examples exist that showcase the impact of open data on increasing awareness on housing issues.
3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil society initiatives that are open data driven and aim to tackle a challenge identified in the social field exist / are supported by government. Studies have been conducted that deal with the social impact of open data.
Indicator	Environmental impact
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities have been launched to monitor the environmental impact of Open Data.
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various re-use examples exist that showcase the impact of open data on increasing awareness on air and water quality.
4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various re-use examples exist that showcase the impact of open data on increasing awareness on noise levels in cities.
4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various re-use examples exist that showcase the impact of open data on enabling better waste management and increasing awareness on waste reduction.
4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil society initiatives that are open data driven and aim to tackle a problem identified in the environmental exist / are supported by government. Studies have been conducted that deal with the environmental impact of open data.
Indicator	Economic impact
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities have been launched to monitor the economic impact of open data.
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies assessing the macro-economic value of open data have been conducted.
5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies assessing the micro-economic value of open data have been conducted.
5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies that assessed the economic benefits of open data for public administrations haven been conducted.
Dimension 4: Open Data Quality	
Indicator	Currency and completeness
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pre-defined approach is in place to ensure metadata is up to date.
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvesters are programmed to ensure that changes at the source are reflected with the least amount of delay on the national portal.

1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The portal provides access to a vast range of data, both historical and current.
Indicator	Monitoring and measures
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisms are in place to monitor the quality of the metadata. Information on the quality of the metadata is available to the broader public.
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines and/or tools are available to assist publishers in choosing the right type of licence for their data. The compliance level in terms of correct licencing information is monitored.
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures are in place to assist publishers in publishing in high-quality metadata / data.
Indicator	DCAT-AP Compliance
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines and materials to help publishers in ensuring compliance with DCAT-AP are linked on the national portal.
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with the DCAT-AP standard in terms of mandatory, recommended and optional classes is monitored. The compliance level is monitored.
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring activities of the percentage of accessible distributions (availability of AccessURL and DownloadURL) are in place. The compliance level is monitored.
Indicator	Deployment quality and linked data
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 5-star open data model or similar is used to assess the quality of data deployment. Activities to familiarise publishers with the 5star model and linked data are conducted.
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of published open data that complies with the requirements of the 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5-stars deployment levels is known. The improvements in terms of quality of open data deployment are monitored.

6 Scoring

The scoring of the open data maturity assessment can be seen below.

Dimension	Key metrics	Scoring	Weight
Open data policy		645	25%
	Policy framework	220	
	Governance of open data	215	
	Open data implementation	210	
Open data Portal		650	25%
	Portal features	240	
	Portal usage	150	
	Data provision	110	
	Portal sustainability	150	
Open data impact		650	25%
	Strategic awareness	140	
	Political impact	130	
	Social impact	120	
	Environmental impact	150	

	Economic impact	110	
Open Data Quality		650	25%
	Currency and completeness	150	
	Monitoring and measures	150	
	DCAT-AP compliance	180	
	Deployment quality and linked data	170	
Total		2595	100%

7 Output

The output of the annual open data maturity assessment consists of:

- **The open data maturity report³**: supports countries to better understand their level of maturity, to capture their progress and the areas for improvement, and benchmark this against other countries. Additionally, the report provides an overview of best practices implemented across Europe that could be transferred to other national and local contexts.
- **The open data maturity dashboard⁴**: presents the detailed country scores per dimension and as well as visualisations of the maturity levels and across Europe.
- **The customised country factsheets⁵**: provides a more detailed insight at national level into the results of the four open data dimensions in comparison with EU28 average and the results from previous years.
- **The analytical report on the top 3 performers⁶**: describes the common success factors that enabled the successful open data transformation of the 3 best performing countries.

³ Find the previous open data maturity reports at:

<https://www.europeandataportal.eu/en/what-we-do/factsheets-and-reports>

⁴ Find the dashboard at: <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/en/dashboard>

⁵ Find the country factsheet at the dashboard at: <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/en/dashboard>

⁶ Find the analytical report on the top 3 performers of 2018 at:

https://www.europeandataportal.eu/sites/default/files/analytical_report_13_open-data-best-practices-top-performers.pdf