



Open Data Programme 29.9.2015

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Open Data Policy in the Finnish Government

In Finland, information resources have been opened diversely, from geodata to weather, climate, sea, transport, financial, statistical and cultural data. Led by the Ministry of Finance, the Open data Programme – 17 May 2013 to 30 June 2015 – was eliminating obstacles to the re-use of public data as well as creating the preconditions for open data within the public administration.

The Open data policy for 2015 – 2020 covers the proposals of the programme for the key goals and actions in the field of open data in the public administration in Finland. This policy should be put into action by ministries in their respective administrative branches, agencies and local authorities. The ministry of Finance is one of the key ministries leading these actions.

The Government of Juha Sipilä was appointed on 29th May 2015 in Finland. One theme in the current government's strategic programme will be digitalisation. The new government programme also highlights the re-use of open data in business.

https://valtioneuvosto.fi/documents/10184/1427398/Hallitusohjelma_27052015_final_EN.pdf/f1071fae-a933-4871-bb38-97bdfd324ee6 - see p.26

The open data goals and action proposals will be discussed and brought to the digitalization strategy and the digitalization processes of the Finnish Government in 2015-2020.



Open data as a basis for the digital economy, public services and decision-making

Open data: a summary of key goals and actions

The key goals are opening and utilising public sector information resources and enhancing information skills

As a follow-up to the Finnish Open Data Programme, the utilisation of public sector information resources will be improved through the following actions, with the goal of boosting public sector productivity and using information effectively in society:

- 1) Continuing support for the systematic opening up of information resources to ensure all significant public information resources are available to society as a whole by the end of the decade, in machine-readable format, free of charge and under clear terms of use.
- 2) Plan a common model for the production, management and services of key basic information resources. The objective is to make basic information resources available free of charge to public authorities, ensure efficient flows of information between local and central government, and utilise information widely in society, taking the limitations of legislation into account.
- 3) Enhance data and information skills by establishing a cross-sectoral national data and information skills programme. Diverse skills in the production, dissemination, opening up, analysis and utilisation of data and information are required to operate and prosper in the digital data and information environment.

Open data: key goals and actions for the period 2015–2020

The Finnish Open Data Programme will end in summer 2015. The following key goals relate to the post-programme period, when responsibility for the opening up of information in the public sector and promoting the utilisation of opened information resources will lie with the Public Sector ICT unit of the Ministry of Finance.

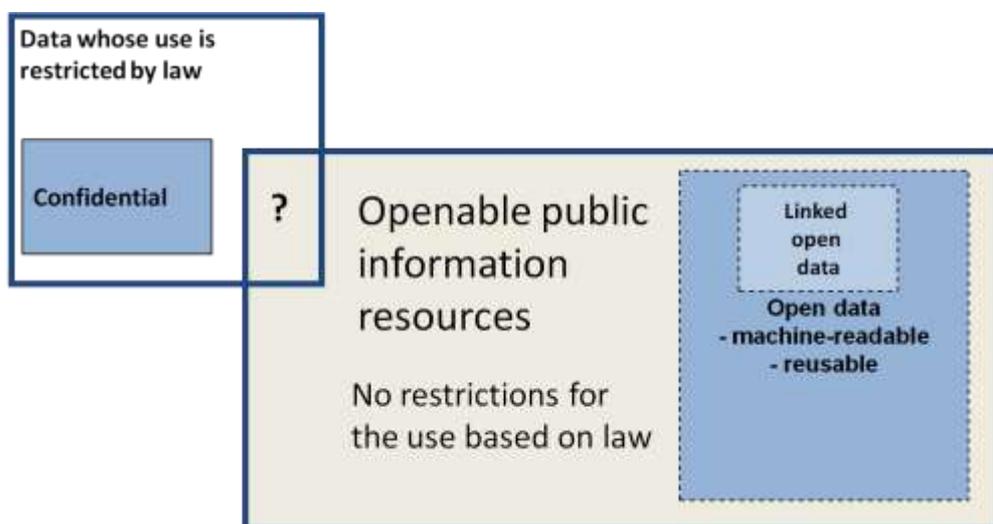
Open data as part of a unified information policy – open data as a basis for the digital economy, public services and decision-making

Open data is one of the key prerequisites for the digital economy, innovative public services and effective governance. Open data is a raw material for digital services and smooth-running service processes. A data-driven economy means efficient utilisation of data and information in local and central government, businesses, science, education and all of society. The aim is to increase the productivity and effectiveness of data and to add value to data that already exists.

In future, open data will be an absolute prerequisite for local and central government steering and operational transparency. Openness of data strengthens democracy through empowerment and creates conditions for civic engagement. The principles of open science and research will benefit society extensively.

In future, the development emphasis will shift from the opening up of information resources to utilising the data and enhancing information and data skills within the whole public sector. The opening up and utilisation of information resources and the enhancement of information and data skills should be taken into account when formulating a unified national data policy and drafting legislation based on it.

Opening up of information resources applies only to public information



Open data: description of current situation, key goal, and actions by theme

1. Theme – Opening up of data	
Description of current situation	<p>Even after opening up extensive information resources, the Finnish public sector still has a lot of data that should be open in order to benefit various actors in society.</p> <p>Opening up information resources, taking user needs into account, and monitoring the effectiveness of opening are not yet part of the everyday activity of the Finnish public authorities.</p> <p>The opening up of key basic information resources (Transport Safety Agency, Patent and Registration office, Population Information System, Land Information System) still requires permanent additional financing of around EUR 25–30 million in the central government budget. These information resources contain personal data, which makes the opening up of these resources rather challenging.</p>
Key goal	All significant public information resources are widely available to society as a whole by the end of the decade in machine-readable format, free of charge and under clear terms of use.
Actions	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate steering, responsibilities and resourcing for the opening up of information resources into the management and steering responsibilities of ministries, agencies and local authorities. 2. Support the process of opening up information resources and the adoption of integrated operating practices in ministries, agencies and local authorities. 3. Promote research on and monitoring of the effectiveness of opening up information resources. 4. Identify new anonymisation techniques for information resources, and actively and systematically monitor the effectiveness of opening up information resources. 	
Responsible authority	Ministry of Finance , ministries in their respective administrative branches, agencies and local authorities
Other actors and partners	Public sector decision-makers, developers, experts
	Developer communities
	Users and beneficiaries of open information resources
Key projects	Open Government Project, National Service Data Architecture, Metadata Portal, Six City Project, Open Science and Research Project
Legislative development needs	Reform of information management legislation (applies to Act on the Openness of Government Activities, Archives Act and Information Management Act).

	Inclusion of re-use of data in Act on the Openness of Government Activities.
Main international links	OECD – Open Government Data, EU PSI-share 2.0, Open Government Partnership (via Open Government Project)

2. Theme – Utilisation of data	
Description of current situation	Public information resources are not yet fully utilised. In addition to the opening up of many types of information resources, extensive research on the use and combination of data from the perspective of users and decision-making is required.
Key goal	<p>The diverse utilisation, combination and further development of open data takes place in active interaction with developer communities, thereby increasing the productivity and effectiveness of data and information in society.</p> <p>The national data portal, Avoindata.fi, and JulkICTLab have been developed to support together the users in utilising open data and interoperability.</p>
Actions	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Improve the availability, awareness and use of open information resources. 6. Create conditions and practices for the technical interoperability of open information resources and for interoperable data processes. 7. Plan a common model for the production, management and services of key basic information resources, and ensure their technical availability free of charge to public authorities and extensively throughout society, taking legislative restrictions into account. Analyse and assess the opportunities, costs and impacts of implementing basic information resources free of charge. 8. Develop Avoindata.fi and JulkICTLab into a single operational entity through which opened-up information resources and interoperability instructions can be easily found and which supports users in opening data and promotes the development of services utilising open data. 	
Responsible authority	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Employment and the Economy , ministries in their respective administrative branches, agencies and local authorities
Other actors and partners	Public sector decision-makers, developers, experts
	Developer communities
	Users and beneficiaries of open information resources
Key projects	Local Government Information Programme, National Service Architecture, projects relating to long-term storage of data

Legislative development needs	Reform of information management legislation
Main international links	ISA (Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations), see also international links of theme 1.

3. Theme – Enhancing data and information skills

Description of current situation	Diverse skills in the production, dissemination, opening, analysis and utilisation of data and information are required to operate and prosper in the digital environment. Source criticism is required, as is training concerning data protection, information security, information management, metadata and big data. Managing and handling one's own information is becoming a key civic skill. All of the country's civil servants also need information and data skills. Expertise and lifelong learning are needed in both work and leisure activities. Information and data skills provide new opportunities for civic activism and economic activity and for developing governance.
Key goal	Information and data skills permeate the whole of society, including both citizens and authorities.
Actions	
<p>9. Survey the public sector's data and information skills needs and set measurable targets.</p> <p>10. Promote enhanced data analysis and processing expertise in ministries, agencies and local authorities.</p> <p>11. Launch a national open data skills programme based on the above-mentioned survey work.</p>	
Responsible authority	Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Finance , ministries in their respective administrative branches, agencies and local authorities
Other actors and partners	Public sector decision-makers, developers, experts
	Developer communities
	Users and beneficiaries of open information resources
Key projects	Open Science and Research Project
Legislative development needs	
Main international links	EU tangential projects

OPEN DATA CONCEPTS

basic information resource

Basic information resources are both the national base registers required by law and other key national-level information resources. By national base register is meant a centralised information system in which key information about the basic units of society, such as people and property, is collected comprehensively and as accurately as possible. The maintenance of such registers is required by law. In Finland, the national base registers include the Population Register System (PRS), the Land Information System (LIS) and the Business Information System (BIS). Basic information resource is therefore a wider concept than national base register.

big data

Big data is the term for data sets which are large, which rapidly expand and which are variable in form.

Big data is difficult to process with traditional data processing applications. Devices and applications require enormous storage capacity and performance to be capable of processing big data. Big data is collected, stored and analysed with the aim of locating valuable information. Big data can be used, for example, in scientific research, product development, marketing and decision-making. For example, an online retailer can analyse the activity of large numbers of users and recommend on the basis of this information suitable products for users of the service.

data set

An identifiable collection of information

information resource

A logical collection of information resources

innovative services

Services that utilise the information and expertise commercially or socially in a new way

machine-readability

A property that supports the mechanical identification, recognition and collection of data

official information

Information collected or compiled by a public authority for its official duties.

open data

Data reusable by anyone, free of charge, with permission and in machine-readable format.

Open data can be freely extended, recycled and combined further in different applications. For example, Statistics Finland's population statistics, the Finnish Meteorological Institute's weather and radar observations, and the National Land Survey of Finland's topographic databases are open data.

open information

Information reusable by anyone in different ways, free of charge and lawfully

opening up of information resources

Opening up of information resources means the offering of public data in machine-readable format freely available for reuse. Opening up of information resources for reuse does not apply to confidential data nor to data whose use is restricted by law. Restricted access to information resources may be granted to groups such as researchers or other authorities, in which case this is not open data in the true sense of the term.

reuse of data

Reuse of data means the use by natural persons or legal entities of documents held by public sector bodies, for commercial or non-commercial purposes other than the initial purpose within the public task for which the documents were produced (EU Directive 2003/98/EC). In practice, reuse of data may be, for example, combining data with other data content or other forms of content or the creation of completely new services based on the data.