

## Response to the European Commission's consultation on recommended standard licences, datasets and charging for the re-use of public sector information from the Danish Agency for Digitisation

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### **General comments**

The Danish Agency for Digitisation welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on recommended standard licences, datasets and charging in connection with the Commission's efforts to develop guidelines for these three areas, as defined in the revised PSI Directive.

The Danish Agency for Digitisation strongly supports the principles behind the unification of licences, datasets and charging as we believe it will enhance the use of public data since an alignment will facilitate access to and use of data across the European borders with subsequent social gains.

The Danish Agency for Digitisation considers it important that the guidelines on standard licences, datasets and charging for public sector information take into account any differences between the various datasets, and national legislation.

### **Detailed comments**

#### *1. Datasets*

The European Commission asks which datasets are to be described as core datasets and therefore should be released.

Denmark has established a Basic Data Programme to ensure that the core datasets are released and re-used as much as possible. Core datasets included in the Basic Data Programme are data on companies, people, buildings, addresses and spatial data. In addition, the Basic Data Programme will be extended to include other relevant datasets, when social gains from releasing these datasets have been identified.

In addition, a number of other datasets have been made publicly available. This includes performance of schools, the Danish Food and Veterinary Administration's smiley scheme' for restaurants and the food industry as well as general social statistics.

#### *2. Standard licences*

For users of public sector information a standard licence can be an advantage, as this makes easier the compilation and combination of data from various sources in products, applications etc. A common European standard licence may be

difficult to implement, but it would be beneficial to have European guidelines on what a licence can include.

The Danish Agency for Digitisation believes that a licence for the re-use of public sector information must impose as little restrictions on re-use as possible. It may however be necessary for a licence to allow acknowledgement of the source of data to be required as well as for a liability waiver to be included.

Denmark has developed a simple common licence for public sector data which is recommended for use on all PSI and mandatory for data under the Basic Data Programme.

Denmark's common licence can be found here:

[http://digitaliser.dk/resource/2432531/artefact/Conditions\\_for\\_use\\_of\\_Danish\\_public\\_sector\\_data.docx](http://digitaliser.dk/resource/2432531/artefact/Conditions_for_use_of_Danish_public_sector_data.docx)

### *3. Charging*

Some of the datasets in the Danish Basic Data Programme, which were previously charged for, have been made available free of charge as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013, so that citizens, businesses, civil society in general as well as public authorities can retrieve and re-use data for free. This applies to certain spatial and business data.

In some areas of Danish law, where a revenue-funded model of operation has been defined and agreed, it is possible to charge higher fees for data than the marginal cost. It is therefore important that the European guidelines for charging do not take precedence over national legislation.