

# Open data portals



Jean-Charles Quertinmont  
27<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Administrative Simplification Agency  
Chancellery of the Prime Minister

# User interaction and user needs collection

- Current situation
  - 2 portals at the federal level
    - [Publicdata.belgium.be](https://publicdata.belgium.be) (ASA/Chancellery)
    - [Data.gov.be](https://data.gov.be) (FedICT)
  - Portals coming soon at regional level
  - Some portals in the municipalities (Ghent...)
  - Working with PwC on the availability the catalog (ODIP)

# User interaction and user needs collection

- Experience: users
  - Business demand is low and not organised (fed.)
    - Companies who need data get it directly at the source (less information = less competition?)
  - Civil society demand is ‘stronger’ and ‘organised’
    - Small organisations (OKFN.be) ask for more concerning the portal but also get the data they need at the source (more information = transparency = democracy)
  - Administrations > main users of the portals for now
    - Help them understand the goal and potential of open data

# User interaction and user needs collection

- Future plans
  - Open data support program in the following 2 weeks (1 session in NL, 1 session in FR)
  - Reactivate all administrations to publish datasets
    - Quality / ‘Source authentique’
    - Metadata (DCAT)
    - Format (machine-readable) / Link (URI)
  - Merge the 2 federal portals (or at least their catalogs)

# User interaction and user needs collection

- Issues
  - No political support yet at the federal level
    - Administrations often don't understand why to do it
    - Achievements depends on the willingness of the civil servants / administrations
    - Re-users don't see any dynamic
  - Portals are made for people who already know what they're looking for (more or less)
    - Expert point of vue (vocabulary, presentation of the information)
  - Languages: FR/NL | smaller community | application more difficult

# User interaction and user needs collection

- Recommendations > step by step
  - Political support / commitment
  - Data quality
  - Data format, link and licence
  - Open data portal for everyone? (**citizens, journalists, students, researchers** and **companies**)
  - Growth: get companies interested in what you have to offer / ask what to do more