

## Digital Single Market

# Open Data

Open data refers to the idea that certain data should be freely available for use and re-use.



[1]

The Commission's work in the area of open data is focussing on generating value through re-use of a specific type of data – public sector information, sometimes also referred to as government data. That is all the information that public bodies produce, collect or pay for. Examples are: geographical information, statistics, weather data, data from publicly funded research projects, and digitised books from libraries.

We support open data for 4 reasons:

- Public data has significant potential for re-use in new products and services;
- Addressing societal challenges – having more data openly available will help us discover new and

innovative solutions;

- Achieving efficiency gains through sharing data inside and between public administrations;
- Fostering participation of citizens in political and social life and increasing transparency of government.

See the [Communication on Open Data](#) [2] of December 2011.

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Team responsible

[DG CONNECT](#) [3]

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#### **Links**

[1] [https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/Open\\_Data\\_stickers.jpg](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/Open_Data_stickers.jpg)

[2] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0882:FIN:EN:PDF>

[3] [https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/communications-networks-content-and-technology\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/communications-networks-content-and-technology_en)