

Startups on the review of the Public Sector Information Directive

December 11, 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Data is an incredible source of innovation for startups. It does not just open up new opportunities, such as data analytics or AI, it is also a great enabler for startups. An idea and the right dataset can be enough to change the world. Data helps founders and entrepreneurs to test, refine and develop products closer to humans. It is a resource that has no scarcity and can provide value to many.

To harness the opportunities that innovative data use offers, it is important that is made available to those who innovate. Especially public sector data, which can roughly be understood as data created, accumulated or stored with the help of public funds, should be a good example and thereby lead the charge towards a European Data Economy. As an example, pooling public company registries across the EU and making them available in one single point could open up new insights and evidence.

Data accessibility should be understood as the making data available via electronic communications, in a commonly used, machine-readable format. For example, members of Allied for Startups reported receiving data in pdf files or other closed formats.

In a wider context, the sharing of privately held data sets can also be a powerful source for innovation. Considering a free market and contractual agreements between different providers of data and following services, we believe a clarification of the do's and don'ts for data sharing could improve the uptake of it. In sum, in order to harness the opportunities and improve uptake of data sharing in the European and Global Data Economy, non-legislative incentives, more legal clarity and sharing of good examples will benefit all actors in a data market, including startups.

Please consider our contribution as part of the consultation. We are looking forward to a constructive dialogue, keeping the interests and needs of startups high on the agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lenard Koschwitz". The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lenard Koschwitz