

Reuse of Public Sector Information

APORTA project

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Organisation: Secretaría de Estado de Administraciones Públicas

Country: Spain

Level of government: Central government

Sector: Economic affairs, General public services

Type: Data, Digital

Launched in: 2008

Overall development time:

11 months.

Link to the innovation's website

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Description

The APORTA project aims to promote a culture of the reuse of public sector information and to raise awareness of the importance and value of reuse among government, citizens and businesses.

It includes an online portal - datos.gob.es - which is an open data portal to publish public data and facilitate its reuse. The portal aims to facilitate the provision of information to the public by the government and public bodies. The data is available in reusable formats, intelligible by automatic means, and flexible.

The centrepiece of the portal is the "Catalogue of Public Information," which provides access to over 650 services' datasets of the General State Administration. These datasets, in turn, contain a wide range of information (census, directories, images, etc.) in up to 150 different categories.

Why the innovation was developed

Public sector data reuse facilitates the development of new products, services and solutions. According to the "Infomediary Sector Characterisation Study 2012", the data reuse industry in Spain generated direct revenues of between EUR 350 million and EUR 550 million and employed around 4 000 people. It also facilitates the spread of knowledge. Reuse helps to improve the reliability and security of data that the public sector manages, and also contributes to a public service that is more efficient and closer to its citizens. The legal basis for the project was the Directive 2003/98/EC on the reuse of public sector information adopted by the European Union, that was then transposed to Spanish Law 37/2007 facilitating public accessibility of data by default.

Objectives

Enhance public trust, Enhance transparency, Improve access, Improve efficiency, Increase citizen engagement, Support economic growth

- Economic impact by facilitating the development of new products, services, solutions and job creation in the digital content industry.
 - Save efficiency costs in the administration by fostering interoperability.
 - Supporting government transparency.
 - Providing an opportunity to improve user information and knowledge on public sector activities.
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Main beneficiaries

Businesses, Civil Society, General population, Government staff

- Citizens.
 - Businesses, self-employed, industry, SME.
 - Businesses in the infomediary sector, employing more than 4 000 people.
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Existing similar practices

Opendata Euskadi

In public administration of my country

Government of Basque Country

Some regional Spanish Governments have launched an open data portal. Some of them, such as Opendata Euskadi, have also obtained recognition at international stage.

<http://opendata.euskadi.net/w79-home/eu/>

Opendata Barcelona

In public administration of my country

Ajuntament de Barcelona (Municipality of Barcelona)

There are some important open data initiatives at the local level. Opendata Barcelona is also recognised internationally.

<http://opendata.bcn.cat/opendata/en/>

Results

Other improvements

In the field of exploitation of public sector information by third parties, the Vickery report of the European Commission estimated a EUR 40 000 million annual economic potential of this operation in the European Union. As the economic weight of Spain in the GDP of the EU is 8.5% according to Eurostat (2011), this would imply that the creation of optimal conditions for exploitation of public sector information by third parties would create economic activities in Spain worth up to EUR 3 400 million annually.

Development

Design

The European Union adopted the Directive 2003/98/EC on the reuse of public sector information that was transposed into Spanish Law 37/2007. The new law provided the impetus for the creation of the APORTA project.

Testing

Creation of an alpha version for the online portal for the initiative (www.aporta.es), which has been improved and transformed into www.datos.gob.es. It acts as a hub for online material related to the reuse of public sector information.

Implementation

Tools used:

- Publication of guidelines on the reuse of public sector information.
- Workshops to showcase best practices on open data and reuse of public data for public administration.
- Annual international event with participation from a range of experts.
- Passage of Royal decree 1495/2011 to allow data publication by default.
- Launch of www.datos.gob.es as an one-stop-shop for datasets.

Resources used:

EUR 2 million since 2008 including workshops, development of the portals and publishing of guidelines and studies.

Diffusion

Yearly international event with the participation of a mix of Spanish and international experts. Workshops to promote data reuse among all government units. Creation of open data communities around open data concept. Close relationship with the association of infomediary companies (ASEDIE). The majority of the Regional Governments have established an open data initiative following the path of the Aporta Project.

Challenges and solutions

Public administrations are quite reluctant to publish information which is in their possession because of a widespread sense of data privacy, or other strict rules. In-depth legal analysis had to be carried out to assure that public bodies are not breaking the law.

Partnerships

Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism

Other Public Sector

The project is a joint venture of the Ministry of Finances and Public Administrations with the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism.

Regional and local governments

Other Public Sector

We have close relationships with the open data initiatives in these governments. The technical interoperability guide for the reuse of public sector information is jointly being developed with these initiatives as a part of the National Interoperability Framework.

ASEDIE (association of infomediary companies)

Private sector

ProBono (civil society organisation for the promotion of transparency)

Civil Society

The partnerships with ASEDIE and ProBono have both allowed focusing on data, which is more interesting to industries in order to develop new businesses. Without this support, the initiative would not get its final purpose of boosting the economy and increasing the transparency.

Lessons Learned

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