



OpenDataMonitor (ODM)

ODM Newsletter 1: January 2014

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Welcome to the first OpenDataMonitor (ODM) newsletter, which gives you an insight into the work of the ODM project, its partners and the consortium countries.

The OpenDataMonitor (ODM) project

Within a few years the idea of open data has spread throughout Europe and produced extensive changes, especially in thinking about governmental data and how it can be used for better-informed decision making, holding organisations to account and providing greater transparency of public-sector services. Open data also has the ability to empower businesses to be more efficient and innovative, the importance of which the [OpenDataMonitor](#) consortium recognises.

Over the next two years, as an EU funded FP7 research project, will work on a groundbreaking new concept which will provide users with an overview of open data resources and information, analysis and visualisations of existing data catalogues. ODM will provide a comprehensive open data analysis and monitoring tool that offers sophisticated methods to scan data catalogues, analyse meta-data and provide intuitive dashboards and comprehensive visualisations to compare existing open data resources. It will be invaluable to open data publishers, consumers, and wider stakeholders all over Europe.

[Learn more about our objectives, and the concept and goals of the project](#)

The ODM partners

A partnership of seven organisations spanning across five countries, the consortium includes partners with expertise in the fields of open data, information visualisation, regional, national and pan-European open data monitoring, analysis and software engineering.

The ODM EU consortium includes: [SYNYO GmbH](#) (Austria), [Open Data Institute](#) (UK), [Athena](#) (Greece), [University of Southampton](#) (UK), [IFGCC](#) (Germany), [City of Munich](#) (Germany) and [Red.es](#) (Spain)



The partners of ODM during the kick-off meeting in Vienna, Austria, in November 2013.

Partner focus



Each edition of the ODM newsletter will bring you a detailed biography of one of the project leads for each participating consortium country. This month, we introduce **Bernhard Jäger MA**, a Research Manager at SYNYO. Bernhard holds a master degree in sociology and a bachelor of arts in communication studies. Besides his expertise on qualitative and quantitative social research methods he also gained comprehensive experience in usability, accessibility, user experience methods, user interface prototyping and design. Based on his profound project management know how from former national and international projects he will ensure a timely, smooth and targeted progress of the OpenDataMonitor project.

The open data 'movement' and our consortium countries.

Vienna, home to our project coordinators **SYNYO**, has committed itself to the concept of Open Government Data. The city has opened up relevant data, ranging from statistics, geographic data, transport and traffic and economic figures, all in machine readable open format and published under a [Creative Commons Licence](#). You can follow updates on the Vienna open government data movement at [@odgwein](#).

Red.es is the public corporate entity attached to the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism which is responsible for promoting the development of the Information Society in Spain. As part of the digital agenda for **Spain**, Red.es worked collaboratively with the Ministry of Finance and Public Administrations, to launch the **Aporta Project** in 2009. Aporta is the flagship initiative of the Spanish Government for promoting the Re-Use of Public Sector Information and fostering the open data culture among the Public Administration and the Society. Aporta created [datos.gob.es](#), the public information catalogue; developed the Technical Specification for Interoperability (TSI) for the Reuse of Public Sector Information and provided numerous guidance and training resources. By 10th of December, [datos.gob.es](#) contained **3.136 datasets of 115 public entities**.

Munich is developing a new, central platform for open data, delivered by administration for people, companies and organisations. Munich has worked on a number of innovative online, digital and open projects, including their [switch to open source software](#), which has saved an estimated **€11.7 million for the city so far**. The move saw a migration from Windows NT to LiMux, the cities own Linux distribution with fully open source desktop infrastructure. Munich now uses ODF rather than proprietary options, reducing a dependency on manufacturers, product cycles and proprietary operating systems. **Out of 15,500 desktops, 14,800 LiMux workspaces were created, exceeding the original goal of 12,000**. Deputy mayor Christine Strobl said that the city *“took an important step towards more openness and independence from individual software makers.”*

In issue **two** of our ODM newsletter, we'll bring you the latest developments on open data in Greece and the UK.

Get involved:

As OpenDataMonitor progresses over the next two years, we'll make details available on our website as to events we'll be participating at. If you are an organisation working with open data and want to share best practice, or offer feedback, you can email ODM at: office@opendatamonitor.eu

To register for future news updates on ODM please sign up to our newsletter using the form on our [homepage](#). You can also follow us on Twitter [@opendatamonitor](#)



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