



OpenDataMonitor

OpenDataMonitor (ODM)
ODM Newsletter 2: May - June 2014

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

Background to OpenDataMonitor

As outlined in our previous newsletter, 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.

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

European Data Forum [March 19-20th, 2014]



Described as the 'meeting place of the data economy', the EDF brings together industry leaders, researchers and policy makers to discuss the challenges and opportunities of data-driven innovation. This year's EDF was held in Athens, with support provided by one of our consortium members, the [Institute for the Management of Information Systems / "Athena" Research Center](#). In addition, ODM was amongst the organising partners, alongside other EU FP7

projects including [LOD2](#), [BIG](#) and [ENGAGE](#).

Members of the ODM consortium were in attendance at the event, introducing the project to attendees and disseminating flyers created for the occasion. In addition, our colleagues from Red.Es gave a presentation on the [Aporta project](#), mentioning their work on ODM within the talk.

Finally, as part of task 2.4 of the project - surveying experiences, challenges and requirements of Open Data publishers and users - our colleagues from IFG.CC conducted interviews with experts from different countries who attended the EDF.



Post EDF, members of the ODM consortium

ODM research nominated for Best Paper Award at this year's International Conference for e-Democracy and Open Government (CeDEM)

We are delighted to announce that the researchers from one of our consortium members, the Open Data Institute (ODI), were nominated for the Best Paper Award at this year's CeDEM. Each year, CeDEM brings together academics, researchers, government and business leaders to discuss challenges and innovation in the fields of e-democracy, e-participation, open data and open government. The ODI's award nominated paper, "[Conceptualizing Open Data Ecosystems – A timeline analysis of Open Data development in the UK](#)" uses popular Open Data definitions, business ecosystem theories, discourse analysis, and in-depth interviews to develop a conceptualisation of the Open Data ecosystem through a timeline analysis of major UK stakeholders. [Ulrich Atz](#), Head of Statistics at the ODI and one of the researchers working on ODM also attended the

conference to present his own paper -- "[The Tau of Data: A New Metric to Assess the Timeliness of Data in Catalogues](#)" -- based on research supported by ODM.

Progress update on the project

To coincide with the EDF conference, our consortium held its second project meeting in Athens. Since launching the project, all partners have been collaborating on both the technical development and conducting detailed research into the open data landscape.

Our colleagues at Athena have progressed steadily with work on the ODM Metadata Harvester, which involves registering open data catalogues, and creating and configuring harvesting jobs to periodically collect metadata for open datasets published in them. The process deals also with harmonising different metadata schemas to a common internal one. Although, for catalogues powered by CKAN, the harvesting process can be done reliably through the CKAN's API, the challenge arises when designing an HTML scraping component to obtain metadata from non-CKAN sites. This was considered necessary, as exploratory work had shown that some big catalogues (such as Spain) aren't using CKAN. Our work in task 2.1 of the project plan will give further indications as to what proportion of open data catalogues aren't using CKAN.

Partner focus

This month, we introduce **Sirko Hunnius**, a researcher at [IfG.CC - Institute for eGovernment](#).



Sirko holds a diploma in public management and economics. His research focuses on ICT adoption in the public sector, competencies for e-government and politics of e-government. He will apply this knowledge in the OpenDataMonitor project to analyse stakeholder requirements and perceptions of open data, the politics of open data and how public administration adopts open data.

Outside of work, Sirko is an ice hockey referee with nine years experience in the German top league and has refereed at three World Championships - but we are optimistic these competencies do not need to be applied in the project.

Sirko was interviewed about the ODM project by [ePSI Platform](#) earlier this year. You can read the interview transcript [here](#).

Expert and advisory board

We are currently in the process of setting up our ODM Expert and Advisory Board, which will consist of interested stakeholders (including researchers, developers, industry leaders and publishers) in the field of Open Data.

The board will assist the ODM project partners with critical and pragmatic insights about the Open Data landscape and community throughout the duration of the project. Members of the Board will be among the first who can benefit from the project, as they will be regularly updated with new results and developments of the ODM FP7 project.

In addition they will have the opportunity to participate in selected ODM meetings and connect with leading experts and specialists in the community.

All actions provided by the Expert and Advisory Board will be on a voluntary basis, and in the interests of transparency, we will publish this list online in the dissemination section of our project website.

If there is anyone you would like to recommend, please do email us their details to office@opendatamonitor.eu

Get involved

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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