Announcing OpenDataMonitor

OpenDataMonitor, a new project funded by the European Commission, aims to provide users with a platform that gives them an overview of open data resources and undertakes analysis and visualisation of existing data catalogues.

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 OpenDataMonitor (ODM) project offers a ground-breaking new concept to provide users with overview information, analysis and visualisations of data catalogues.

Open Data are currently scattered across the internet. ODM aims to make this information on catalogues and publishers available across a number of levels; single public bodies, national open data pools and on a European level. ODM will be used to identify gaps in the market where additional open data may be needed. It will provide greater visibility of open data deployment nationally, greater understanding of emerging trends and deeper insight into the potential for further investment, leading to improved strategy development, particularly to enable the reuse of open data.

Throughout the project, the partners will undertake research studies on open data topologies, sources, parameters, categorisation models and identify the relevant technologies and processes that are of relevance to monitoring and further analysing open data.
Using meta-data, parameters and key-indicators, the project will be able to perform a sophisticated analysis of available open data resources. For this purpose established open source software (such as CKAN) will be used throughout. ODM will deliver a flexible 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. The tool will be invaluable in providing comprehensive open data analysis to both publishers and wider stakeholders across Europe.

For this 2-year project, ODM brings together seven partners from five different European countries, experts specialising in the fields of open data, information visualisation, regional, national and pan-european open data monitoring, analysis and software engineering.