



# OPEN DATA SUPPORT

## Training Module 2.5

# Data & metadata licensing



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# Presentation metadata

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## *Learning objectives*

By the end of this training module you should have an understanding of:

- The importance of licensing;
- The meaning of licensing in the world of Open Data;
- Reuse principles and conditions for European Commission documents;
- The licensing option for data and metadata published via the EU ODP.

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# ***Content***

This modules contains...

- The importance of licensing;
- Licensing in the Open Data principles;
- Reuse principles for European Commission documents;
- The licensing option for publishing data and metadata via the EU ODP.

*Find more on: [training.opendatasupport.eu](https://training.opendatasupport.eu)*

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# The importance of Licensing

## *Clear licence information is important because...*

- It **tells users** and **reusers** exactly **what they can do** with your data and metadata.
- It **encourages the use and reuse** of your data and metadata the way you want them to be used and reused.
- It **creates visibility** of your efforts downstream (if you ask for attribution).

*If no explicit licence is provided, a user does not know what can be done with the data/metadata – the default legal position is that nothing can be done without contacting the owner on a case-by-case basis.*

# Licensing in the Open Data Principles

*How licences appear in the basic principles of open data  
and why licensing of open (meta)data is important.*

# The Open Data Definition

*It also covers metadata*

*“A piece of data or content is open if **anyone** is **free to use, reuse, and redistribute** it — subject only, at most, to the requirement to **attribute and/or share-alike**”*

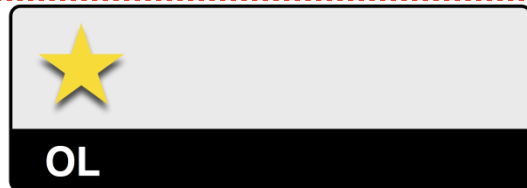
-- [opendefinition.org](http://opendefinition.org)

This means, according to the Open Knowledge Foundation:

- **Availability and Access:** the data must be available as a whole and at no more than a reasonable reproduction cost, preferably by downloading over the internet. The data must also be available in a convenient and modifiable form.
- **Reuse and Redistribution:** the data must be provided under terms that permit reuse and redistribution including the intermixing with other datasets.
- **Universal Participation:** everyone must be able to use, reuse and redistribute - there should be no discrimination against fields of endeavour or against persons or groups. For example, ‘non-commercial’ restrictions that would prevent ‘commercial’ use, or restrictions of use for certain purposes (e.g. only in education), are not allowed



# *Licensing is the first star...*



*One star:* publish data under an **open licence**



*Two stars:* publish in **machine-readable** format



*Three stars:* publish in **open format**



*Four stars:* assign **URIs** to data



*Five stars:* create **links** to other data

**See also:**

<http://www.slideshare.net/OpenDataSupport/introduction-to-linked-data-23402165>

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Reuse principles  
for EC documents

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# ***Commission decision of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (2011/833/EU)***

## ***Article 4***

Public documents produced by the Commission or by public and private entities on its behalf are available for reuse as a general principle:

- (a) for commercial or non-commercial purposes
- (b) without charge and
- (c) without the need to make an individual application

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# ***Commission decision of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (2011/833/EU)***

## ***Article 5***

“The Commission shall set up a **data portal** as a single point of access to its structured data so as to facilitate linking and reuse for commercial and non-commercial purposes.

Commission services will identify and progressively make available suitable data in their possession. The data portal may provide access to data of other Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies at their request.”

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# *Commission decision of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (2011/833/EU)*

## *Article 6*

Conditions for reuse:

- (a) the obligation for the reuser to **acknowledge the source** of the documents;
- (b) the obligation **not to distort** the original meaning or message of the documents;
- (c) the **non-liability** of the Commission for any consequence stemming from the reuse.

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Licensing datasets  
to be published via  
the EU ODP

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## *Licensing datasets*

- To attach no restrictions to your data, you need to say it.
- Every dataset should have a licence associated to it.
  - Without an explicit licence, reuse is restricted.
- The objective is to make data(sets) **as openly available as possible**, within the boundaries of the law.

But which licensing option applies for datasets published via the EU ODP?

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## ***Licensing option for datasets published via the EU ODP***

Datasets published via the EU ODP are subject to the legal notice establishing that:

1. Reuse is authorised, provided the source is **acknowledged**;
2. The general principle of reuse can be subject to conditions which may be specified in **individual copyright notices**;
3. Reuse is not applicable to documents subject to intellectual property **rights of third parties**.



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# Conclusions

- **Data and metadata** should be provided with **an explicit licence** so that reusers know what to do with the metadata and data and allow for maximum interoperability.
  - For datasets published via the EU ODP, the relevant **legal notice** applies

and don't forget...

- If no explicit licence is provided, a user does not know what (if anything) can be done with the data.
- No reuse = no social and economic value.

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Thank you!  
...and now YOUR questions?

# References

- The Open Knowledge Foundation. Open Definition. <http://opendefinition.org/>
- The Open Knowledge Foundation. Open Data - An Introduction. <http://okfn.org/opendata/>
- LOD Around The Clock (LATC). 5 ★ Open Data. <http://5stardata.info/>
- Directive 2013/37/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/98/EC on the reuse of public sector information. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:175:0001:0008:EN:PDF>
- European Commission. Revision of the PSI Directive. [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/psi/revision\\_directive/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/psi/revision_directive/index_en.htm)
- Commission decision of 12 December 2012 on the reuse of Commission documents (2011/833/EU) . <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:330:0039:0042:EN:PDF>
- European Commission Legal Notice. [http://ec.europa.eu/geninfo/legal\\_notices\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/geninfo/legal_notices_en.htm)

## *Further reading*



N. Korn and C. Oppenheim. Licensing Open Data: A Practical Guide.  
<http://discovery.ac.uk/businesscase/principles/>

# *Related projects and initiatives*



Revision of the PSI Directive,

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/psi/revision\\_directive/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/psi/revision_directive/index_en.htm)



Europeana Licensing Framework,

<http://pro.europeana.eu/documents/858566/7f14c82a-f76c-4f4f-b8a7-600d2168a73d>



Creative Commons Licenses, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/>



Open Data Commons – Licenses, <http://opendatacommons.org/licenses/>



The European Thematic Network on Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information, <http://www.lapsi-project.eu/>



EC ISA Programme, ISA Open Metadata licence v1.1.

<https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/category/license/isa-open-metadata-license-v11>

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