I have a dream?
(adventures with Open Data in a Government World)

http://slidesha.re/GLD-ICT2010

José Manuel Alonso
Tiredness of Traditional Democracy

• A large % of the world population has lost confidence in their political representatives.
  – the exclusively representative democratic system satisfies citizens less and less, increasing apathy.
• There is a high rate of abstinence in voting at elections.
• Democracies reserve political decision for the elite and large organized groups
  – without providing social participation tools others than the periodic election process.
eGovernment: a tunnel vision?
Public Service Challenges

• Delivery
  – Services to all citizens in an efficient and “easy to access” manner.

• Transparency and accountability
  – Inclusion and participation

• Connecting with citizens --
  – data, input, aspirations, challenges, needs.

• Economic development
  – Information to spur commerce.

• Efficiency

• Serving citizens --fast, effective, affordable
Open Government (oGov)

- Gov 2.0 paradigm shift
  - Centralized $\rightarrow$ Decentralized
  - Government $\rightarrow$ Consumer

- Gov 2.0 action
  - Government-Citizen partnership
  - Crowd sourcing
  - Collective intelligence and creativity
  - Faster, more dynamic

- Gov 2.0 technologies and services
  - Supporting citizen interaction
  - Provided by civil hackers, as well as governments
Open Government Data (OGD)

• Open
  – Can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone

• Government Data
  – Datasets or information sets produced or commissioned by government or government controlled entities

(Releasing the people’s data means to give it back to their real owners. Isn’t it a wonderful to do?)
Open Government Data (OGD)

• “Open Data” and “Open Government Data”.
  – (Europe) “Public Sector Information” (PSI).

• No commonly agreed definitions or agreed methods for measuring it yet, but:
  – “information collected, preserved and produced by public sector bodies that is suitable to be made available in free, open, raw, machine-readable formats and ways that make it accessible to all and allow reuse”
Open Data: oGov Pillar
What data?

• Regulatory (laws, decisions, etc.)
• Records (meetings, financial, reports, etc.)
• Statistics (votes, census, crimes, accidents, etc.)
• Geodata (resources, transportation, services, businesses, etc)

(protect privacy, security, confidentiality)
Concerns Heard

- Loss of licensing revenue
- Loss of control
- Legal challenges
- Unwelcomed exposure
- Procedural changes
- Privacy
- National security
- Complexity
- Investment
- Capacity building required
- Authenticity, quality
- Corruption, falsification of data
- Customer service

(Positives will likely outweigh the concerns)
What does it correlate?

• Nobody knows everything just yet
  – And if someone believe (s)he does, think twice!
• Still a young “science”
• Some lessons learned (but few)
  – Most of them as projects go
• Hypothesis, hypothesis, hypothesis...
  – “Open Data fosters economic growth and entrepreneurship”
Advancing in Europe

• We will increase availability of public sector information for reuse
• We will encourage the reuse of public data by third parties to develop enriched services that maximise the value for the public.
• New demand-led information products and services enabled by the reuse of public sector information will support the transition of Europe to a knowledge-based economy.

(ministerial Malmö declaration, 18 Nov 2009)
OGD Ecosystem: Context

**Economical and Business**
- Macroeconomic Stability
- Financial Markets
- Markets for Goods and Services
- Business Environment

**Social**
- Demographics
- Labor Market
- Quality of Life
- Education and Literacy

**Infrastructures y Sci-Tech**
- Innovation
- ICT Usage
- Infrastructures

**Institutional and Political**
- Governance and Democracy
- Transparency and Corruption
- Cooperation

**Open Access**
- Legal Basis
- Awareness and Support
- Data and Interoperability
- Agents
OGD Ecosystem: Actors

“it has to happen at the top, it has to happen at the middle and it has to happen at the bottom.” Tim Berners-Lee

Government and institutions
- Top level
- Middle layer
- International institutions

Civil society
- Civil hackers and activists
- Private Business
- Press and Media
- University
- NGO, non-profit
- Donors
OGD Ecosystem: Process

**Actors**
- Government: Top, Middle, Int’l
- Civil Society: Hackers, Business, Media, Academia, NGO, Donor

**Stages**
- Situation
- Analysis
- Operations
- Re-use
OGD Worldwide

http://datos.fundacionctic.org/sandbox/catalog/faceted/
GLD Worldwide

http://datos.fundacionctic.org/sandbox/catalog/faceted/
## Open Data: approaches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OGD</th>
<th>GLD</th>
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<tr>
<td>• 1000s spreadsheets on the Web (Web 1.0)</td>
<td>• Modelling and semantic enrichment</td>
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<td>• Web as file server</td>
<td>• Optimization of the Web</td>
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<td>• Improves interoperability</td>
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OGD: the Web as a File Server

1. Find the data set
2. Download it
3. Unzip it
4. No vocabulary/schema
5. Build app locally
6. Duplicate dataset (so my app can use it)
7. Mix it with others???
GLD: Web to the Max

COURSE: STEEL STRUCTURES WELDER


2. Vocabulary is embedded

3. License (CC-BY) too
Not to forget: RDFa as Bridge
The difference is why

OGD

Model
Re-use

GLD

Model
Re-use
GLD: a good tactic but…

• Modelling is very tough
• How to combine multiple sources?
  – Technically speaking, but also licensing issues, etc.
  – Slow...
• Data quality, trust, provenance
• It just doesn’t work (semantic browsers examples)
• Lack of tooling, good practice
• Where are the standard vocabularies?
• Capacity building
So what should I do?

- Raw Data Now
- Better data afterwards

(Avoid to be blinded by visualizations, aka *trivilization for the masses*)
- “...the most popular Many Bills view is one where you can't actually read anything, but see a colorful rendition of the bills.”
Oh, and my dream?

http://senseable.mit.edu/nyte/
Gracias

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