

About LAPSI:

The objective of the LAPSI 2.0 thematic network is to identify the remaining legal barriers and obstacles to access and re-use of public sector information (PSI) on the European content market, and to provide measures and tools to overcome or reduce these barriers and to stimulate the progress of the European market towards open data.

LAPSI 2.0 brings together academic experts with stakeholders from the public and private sector in order to provide clear insights in the remaining legal issues with regard to access to data, intellectual property rights and competition, institutional embedding and enforcement, and licensing frameworks. It will build on the results of and lessons learned in the existing LAPSI thematic network, and consolidate LAPSI's position as the forum par excellence for consensus building on legal aspects relating to PSI and open data. By creating a platform for continuous interaction, knowledge exchange and policy discussion, the LAPSI 2.0 thematic network will stimulate the re-use of PSI, promote the growth of the European content market and, ultimately, contribute to a sustainable single market in the European Union.

The network will organise several types of events in order to achieve its objectives. Thematic meetings will be arranged for small scale debate on strategies for moving forward in the debate on legal aspects. Based on this debate, joint meetings of the network will combine the findings of the thematic meetings in an encompassing view on the regulatory framework for PSI.

About the PSI Alliance

The PSI Alliance is *the* voice for European private sector companies using - or wishing to use - Public Sector Information as an essential part of their business models, representing companies from different sectors and from across the European Union. The Public Sector Information Alliance is the only pan-European trade association representing the interests of private sector reusers.

The Alliance is seeking to achieve a fair and level playing field in the PSI marketplace. The end goal of the PSI Alliance is to encourage the public and private sectors to work together effectively, ensuring that PSI can assume its proper role as a key contributor to a vibrant, information-driven European economy, offering benefits to the public sector, private sector and the end consumer.

It has spent the last few years working with the European Commission, Council and Parliament to ensure that a robust Directive was produced. While we are largely pleased with the outcome, Member States have a certain amount of flexibility to implement the new rules in the next two years, so the PSI Alliance is focussing on making sure that

the Member States implement them properly and in the spirit that was meant - as many as nine countries had infringement proceedings against them the last time.

The PSI Alliance has an excellent working relationship with the Commission, supporting each other in our common goal of a fair place for public data trading – with both parties calling on the other for help and support in the cause and I have heard the Commission on several occasions re-iterating our positions directly during debates.

Our members tend to have very good relationships with national policy-makers, and the board members are given considerable extra weight when they meet not only as a national of that country representing an individual company, but representing the PSI Alliance as a whole.

In terms of ecosystems, we have excellent collaboration with many other organisations, in particular with the ePSI Platform, LAPSI, the OKF and Share-PSI 2.0. We have spoken at their conferences and vice versa. We are members of the consortium of the LAPSI and the Share-PSI 2.0 projects which seek to establish proper technical standards for PSI and also proper implementation of the PSI Directive.

Barriers to Re-Use

Despite its potential, private sector companies who use PSI are facing various problems of access, pricing and quality. The main issues on which the PSI Alliance is campaigning are the following:

- **Lack of information:** on websites of available PSI and conditions on re-use.
- **Competition issues:** There is a risk that the commercial activities of public sector bodies, in parallel to those required of it to fulfil their public tasks, are in fact subsidised by public funding.
- **Licensing Conditions:** Licensing conditions are often inconsistent and complex, favouring certain partners or certain uses of information and discouraging others. Licenses should be transparent, fair and designed with the goal of maximising the re-use of information.
- **Marginal Cost:** Keeping costs marginal will prevent the public sector from competing directly in the market with an unfair advantage with private companies. Any other charging regime apart from marginal cost requires complex licensing and some substantive governance.
- **Intellectual Property:** there should be no unreasonable intellectual property rights restrictions connected to the information.
- **Supervisory Organisation:** There is a need for a mandatory supervisory organisation in each Member State to guarantee proper application of regulations.