



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Media and Data
Data Value Chain

Luxembourg,
CNECT G3/DR/an

Martín Álvarez Espinar and
Carlos E. Jiménez
Co-chairs
Open Data Spain Community Group
Madrid, Spain

Dear Mr. Álvarez Espinar and Mr. Jiménez,

On behalf of Vice-President Neelie Kroes, I would like to thank you for your letter of 15 March 2013, regarding the support to the development of a pan-European Open Data portal and of an Open Data digital infrastructure.

The legislative, organisational and operational initiatives ongoing at the Spanish national and regional level (including, i.a., the establishment of a national and several local and regional portals, the normative framework, technical standards and recommendations) constitute a relevant example of best practices in the field of Open Data implementation in a Member State. The initiative for federating existing data catalogues into a upper level single one, beyond the direct benefits for Spanish Public administrations at all levels of government, will also greatly facilitate the access to Spanish Open Data from the pan European Open Data portal.

With regard to the Commission initiatives on Open Data, you are certainly aware that, in line with the Open Data Package presented in December 2011, the Commission has already launched a number of initiatives aiming at facilitating access to and re-use of public sector information; federating the content of existing Open Data and Open Data Portals in Europe through the development of a pan European Data Portal and the deployment of a European data infrastructure is one of its key instruments.

We therefore particularly welcome your interest and support for a Commission policy for facilitating the access to Open Data at the European level, linking different national and regional systems to achieve a pan European digital single market. The continuous support and contribution of stakeholders as your organization is a crucial factor for a successful implementation of this policy. We take profit of this opportunity to kindly ask you to inform us on possible supplementary contributions your organization could provide for supporting the setting up of a pan-European Open Data infrastructure and its long term sustainability.

Yours sincerely,

Márta NAGY-ROTHENGASS
Head of Unit