



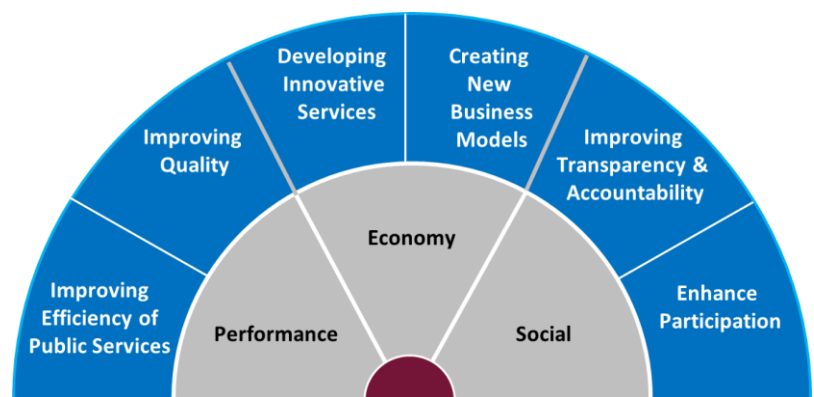
# EUROPEAN DATA PORTAL

## The European Data Portal - Opening up Europe's public data

To contribute to the realisation of a Digital Single Market, the European Commission aims at creating a "data value chain friendly" policy environment. Bearing in mind the fact that a substantial amount of this data is collected by governments, the so-called Public Sector Information (PSI), a genuine right to re-use public information has been created. This will guarantee that all generally accessible information will become re-usable.

The benefits of Open Data are diverse and range from improved performance of public administrations, economic growth in the private sector to wider social welfare, as depicted in the picture.

The key question is how to untap the potential of open data by ensuring data is made available more systematically, easy to discover and easy to use.



The launch of the European Data Portal is one of the key steps the European Commission is taking to support the access to public data. The strategic objective of the European Data Portal project is to address the accessibility and the value of Open (Government) Data. Open Data refers to the information collected, produced or paid for by the public bodies (also referred to as PSI) and made freely available for re-use for any purpose.

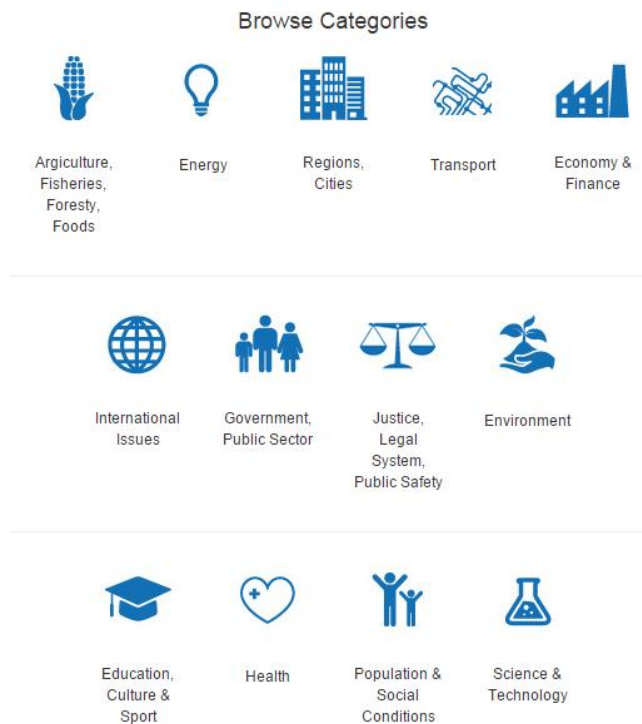
On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the Beta version of the European Data Portal is released. The European Data Portal harvests the metadata<sup>1</sup> of PSI available on public data portals across European countries. Portals can be national, regional, local or domain specific. They cover the EU Member States, EEA, countries involved in the EU's neighbourhood policy and Switzerland, 39 countries in total.

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<sup>1</sup> Metadata describes the dataset itself (e.g. date of creation, title, content, author, type, size) which is needed to get it into catalogues and helps in its discovery.

The metadata has been structured into thirteen categories following the revision of the DCAT Application Profile. These categories are

- Agriculture, fishery forestry and foods
- Energy
- Regions, cities
- Transport
- Economy and finance
- International issues
- Government, public sector
- Justice, legal system, public safety
- Environment
- Education, culture and sport
- Health
- Population and social conditions
- Science and technology



In addition to these data categories, the metadata can be browsed by catalogue, by SPARQL query, by location, etc. Visualising and mapping tools are equally made available.

**A substantial part of the project is the creation of the Portal. However, the Portal alone is an empty shell.** It requires metadata to be supplied by the holders of public data resources on the hand, as well as stimulation of the re-use of Open Data resources.

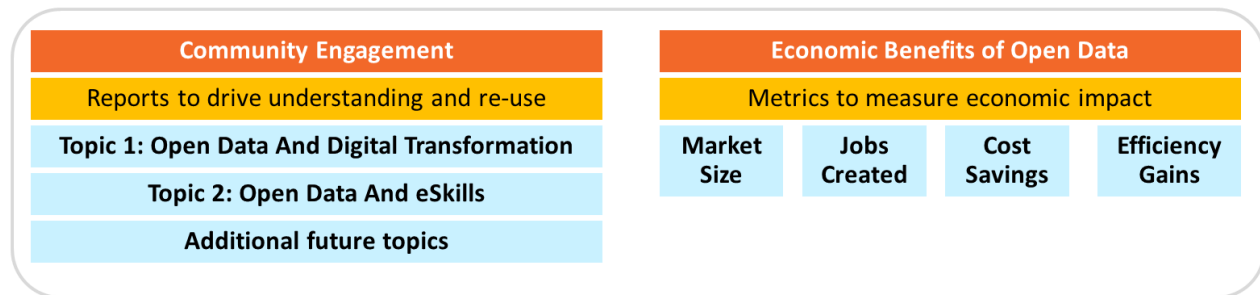
**A series of support activities take place to support the countries to publish more data.** To offer support, a first step consists in measuring the level of Open Data Maturity. Based on the outcomes, common and tailored support will be provided to countries to accelerate the release of public data at national and local levels.



The European Data Portal also aims at fostering the re-use of public data resources, as this will drive economic benefits and innovation. This is done by leveraging community engagement to make the most out of Open Data, communicating and raising awareness about the Portal, studying the economic impact of the reuse of public data resources, and by preparing for the future and working on the sustainability.

**Fostering uptake on reuse of public data resources**

- Leveraging community engagement to the make the most out of Open Data
- Communicating and raising awareness about the Portal
- Studying the economic impact of the reuse of public data resources
- Preparing for the future and working on the sustainability



To summarise, the European Data Portal contains the metadata of public data made available on the EU28+ national portals, as well as metadata from the national geospatial portals, eLearning modules on Open Data, a Gold Book for data publishers, and the findings from the study on the economic value of the re-use of Open Data.