Deliverables 1.1 & 2.1
Web site & first CfP

Keywords: Outreach, dissemination, operation

Share-PSI 2.0
Standards for Open Data and Public Sector Information

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1 Introduction

This document describes the work done to complete the early deliverables of Share-PSI 2.0, namely the Web site (D1.1) and the publication of the call for participation in the first workshop (D2.1). It describes the three main iterations of the project Web site, beginning before the project started through to the current version (one hesitates to say 'final'), the development of a logo and colour scheme for the project and the systems in place to aid collaborative working. Section 4 includes and describes the develop of the call for participation in the first workshop in Samos.

2 Initial Web site

The Share-PSI 2.0 Web site was established on a dedicated area of the W3C's domain (w3.org). The homepage URL of http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/ was chosen following the W3C URI Persistence Policy[1] which is designed to ensure that resources posted on the site can be expected to survive without any change of URL into the indefinite future. It means that dates often appear in w3.org URLs to ensure that a future project with the same name is not encumbered by materials from this project. Persistence is an important part of the infrastructure and culture at W3C and the primary reason for using w3.org rather than establishing a new domain for the project that would be unlikely to survive more than the minimum 3 years after the project ended. The site created for this project ensures that the case studies, papers, presentations and reports will all be published in a stable environment, one that also enjoys almost unparalleled search engine visibility (w3.org is matched only by the likes of bbc.co.uk, cnn.com and Wikipedia in terms of search engine ranking).

An initial holding page was put in place before the Share-PSI 2.0 began as a place to put basic information online as this was useful when developing and evangelising the project. A wiki was added at that time which is publicly readable but only writable by members of the project. This is the main workspace for the project and was useful, for example, in distributing information about the kick off meeting.

At the end of January the holding page was replaced by a more substantial set of pages. This coincided with the publication of the call for participation for the first workshop. The logo and design work for the project was not complete at this time and so the site was constructed with a temporary look and feel (Figure 1). At this stage the site is straightforward comprising:

- the homepage giving an overview of the project;
- a page about all the workshops, including planned dates and locations;
- the call for participation for Samos;
- information about the project itself which links to a full list of partners.

A side panel appears on all pages to highlight the current call for participation with a second panel on the workshop pages giving key information about the specific workshop, linking to the programme committee etc. The URLs for each page follow a simple pattern:

`/workshop` for the general page about all workshops

`/workshop/samos` for the CfP for Samos

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[1] http://www.w3.org/Consortium/Persistence.html

`/workshop/samos/programme` for details of the programme committee etc.

Figure 1 Screenshot of temporary homepage, Feb-April 2014

All future materials about Samos will appear under equally transparent URLs below the /workshop/samos tree.

The site uses some the latest HTML5 and CSS3 features but does not depend on them. For example, not all browsers will show the text in two columns on the project home page, not all browsers show the side panels with rounded corners but it is still perfectly usable with a single column and square corners. A small library of PHP functions is used to manage common features such as the side panels and menus. The site is operated entirely separately from other areas of the W3C Web site.

3 Project logo

During April, one of the project partners,]init[, developed a number of possible logos for the project. The brief was to show how the many different members of the network come together to form something greater than the sum of the parts. After a number of iterations, a choice of two designs was offered to the partners.

Figure 2 The two designs offered to the partners

The first one can be interpreted in a variety of ways: as an opened up cube, as two heart shapes crossing diagonally or as a simple + sign. The second option refers visually to XML's angle brackets but again is designed to show different elements working together. Votes cast by the members showed a slight preference for the second option but, at the suggestion of one partner, the normal weight font, rather than the bold font was used. Applying the colour scheme to the Web site created the revised version (Figure 3).

Only a small amount of adaptation was required to use the same text and colour scheme for the printed/downloadable flyer (appended to this deliverable). Where requested by partners attending relevant events, copies of the flyer have been sent by post; the bulk of them however will be distributed among the partners during the Samos summit.

Figure 3 Revised project home page using colours from logo

4 The First Call for Participation (D2.1)

All information about and resulting from the workshops will be published on the project Web site. The first call for participation, for the workshop in Samos 30 June – 1 July, was first published at http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/workshop/samos/ on 3 March with only trivial corrections made since then. It is reproduced in full below, followed by a commentary.

Samos Workshop: Uses of Open Data Within Government for Innovation and Efficiency

Forward-Looking, Visionary Approaches for Public Sector Information Sharing and Utilisation

Call For Participation

Open data provides an unprecedented opportunity for innovation around transparent, evidence-based decision making, public engagement and trust. Just as importantly, it also facilitates *more efficient government* with each department or agency better able to reuse data collected and managed by their colleagues (perhaps very distant colleagues). Public sector information (PSI) may be offered as "open data" in many forms and through different media: from simple datasets describing traffic or unemployment, to Web services linking and mashing information from different sources, to interactive visualisation of complex phenomena, to citizen-based data gathering and transmission. Through these different channels, new information is made available across the public and private sectors, to scientists, citizens and enterprises, all of whom are then able to benefit from each other's activities in a growing network effect.

That's the promise. So what's the reality? With many initiatives already in place, what innovations have we seen both in terms of curation and publishing, and in terms of data re-usage? What are the efficiency gains? How much of the promise of open data is being fulfilled? Are expectations being met? If so, how? If not, is it the expectations or the implementation that is wrong?

Expected Outcomes

The workshop report will show examples where innovation in the curation, publication and reuse of public sector information has and has not met the promise of open data, particularly in terms of improvements in operational efficiency. Where and how has this been achieved? Where initiatives that have fallen short of their promise, what might be the reasons for that? The expected outcome of the workshop will be helpful to EU Member States working to implement the revised PSI Directive.

As with all Share-PSI 2.0 workshops (a total of five are planned), this workshop will provide input to the W3C Data on the Web Best Practices Working Group, helping to maximise the impact of open data efforts around the world.

Participation

The Share-PSI 2.0 partners invite short position papers describing initiatives undertaken to make public sector information available and the impact that these efforts have had. These should not be academic papers but descriptions of the discussion or presentation you would like to offer. Each organisation or individual wishing to participate must submit a position paper explaining their interest in the workshop by the deadline. The intention is to make sure that participants have an active interest in the area, and that the workshop will benefit from their presence. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- uses of open data within government for innovation and efficiency proving the value of open data within the public sector;
- improvement in public service delivery;
- examples of open data utilisation for policy making purposes;
- visionary ideas on open data utilisation within society and policy modelling;
- new approaches for public sector information processing and visualisation;
- open data and citizen participation in information gathering / crowdsourcing;
- the open data feedback loop — communication between organizations that publish data and users of the data;
- collaboration between different communities.

Submissions will be reviewed by the programme committee within 2 weeks of the submission deadline.

Participation is free, however, there will be a charge to cover catering costs. There is no funding to support participants' travel and accommodation expenses.

Submission Guidelines

Papers should be a maximum of 5 pages long and should be submitted in a non-proprietary format (HTML, PDF, ePub etc.) via e-mail to group-share-psi@w3.org. Please include an abstract of the paper in your e-mail. Note that the archive for this e-mail address is visible to Share-PSI partners and W3C Team only.

Submissions by more than one author are welcome; however only the coordinating author (as indicated in the submission) of the selected paper will be invited to take part in the Share-PSI workshop. Additional authors will be able to attend the workshop only if space allows. All selected contributions and associated slides will be published in the Share-PSI 2.0 Web site after the announcement of results.

Venue

This, the 1st Share-PSI 2.0 workshop, will be hosted by the University of the Aegean on the island of Samos, Greece, and in conjunction with the 5th Samos Summit on ICT-enabled Governance, 30 June to 1 July, 2014.

4.1 Commentary on first CfP

The broad theme for each workshop was decided during the preparation of the Thematic Network in 2013. The detail of the topics for the Samos workshop was agreed during the kick off meeting in London on 10 Feb[2].

One of the commitments made by each partner is that they will prepare and present a case study for *at least* one of the five workshops and, during the kick off meeting, 17 partners committed to doing so for Samos. At the beginning of the session to plan Samos, 9 possible sub-topics were sketched out. Each partner's predicted paper was then assigned to one or more of the sub-topics. The numbers in brackets in the list below indicate the number of partners who expected to address each sub-topic in their paper.

1. PSI sharing and OGD status at regional, national and district level (6)
2. Open data usage for policy making support and evidence-based decision making by administrations (4)
3. Open data for research, on societal challenges tackling (1)
4. Open data for citizens: transparency, social evolution and information (5)
5. Open data for businesses and SMEs (1)
6. Open data resources and infrastructures status (1)
7. The open data lifecycle (1)
8. Open Data marketing and engagement (2)
9. Transport Data model Convergence and Open data extension for Multi-Modal-Trip-Planner-System enhancement (0)

This process helped to develop the CfP which includes a refined version of this list as possible topics for papers, highlighting the issues of most interest to partners, downplaying the ones of less interest (transport data, for example, is not mentioned in the CfP).

The bulk of the CfP is concerned with setting the scene and giving details of the submission logistics but the list of topics (always phrased as *Topics include, but are not limited to:*) is the core of the call. A separate mailing list was established through which submissions could be made. This is set up on the W3C system which includes strong anti-spam software as well as a Web archive system to which project partners (and W3C Team members) only have access.

The programme committee was also largely decided during the London kick off meeting. A total of 39 individuals volunteered to review one or two papers and these names are listed on a dedicated page (the programme committee for the Lisbon workshop will be at w3.org/2013/share-psi/workshop/lisbon/programme). Venue and registration information is dealt with by the logistics for the broader Samos Summit.

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[2] https://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/wiki/Kick_Off_Meeting#Samos.2C_July_2014

5 The Wiki

The Web site is the front window of the project and will be its archive. The wiki is the working space for partners. It is publicly readable but write access is restricted to project partners. In order to grant write privileges, individuals are asked to create an account on w3.org (if they don't already have one) and then the account is (manually) associated with the group. As well as granting write access to the wiki, it also means that those individuals receive e-mail sent to group-share-psi@w3.org and have access to the Web archive of that list (to which anyone can write). As described in D1.2, this is not the primary mailing list for the project but is useful for collecting paper submissions.

The wiki is useful for preparing the agenda for project meetings, recording minutes etc. For example, the kick off meeting is fully documented on the wiki[3]. At the time of writing the wiki also includes:

- a draft agenda for the project meeting to be held the day after the Samos workshop;
- the list of papers submitted for Samos;
- the agenda for the organising committee meeting to decide on the workshop agenda for Samos.

Most usefully of course, the wiki is a collaborative environment and it is here, for example, that information was gathered from each partner about their efforts to promote the Samos workshop[4].

6 Conclusion

The infrastructure is in place to promote the project and its outcomes. The homepage of the project Web site offers a succinct summary of what Share-PSI 2.0 is about, what its aims are and how to benefit from it. A print-friendly version of that content is available for download and will be distributed at relevant events by the partners. The site is hosted in a highly stable environment with a commitment to long term preservation so that the project results will persist well beyond July 2016. Meanwhile the partners have access to a collaborative workspace and communication tools that allow such a large group of people to work together.

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[3] https://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/wiki/Kick_Off_Meeting
[4] https://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/wiki/Samos/Promotion

Get Involved

Calls for participation for all Share-PSI 2.0 workshops are published about 5 months before the event. If the topic matches an issue you're working with, submit a position paper and join us. Several workshops are collocated with related events so that you can maximise the benefit of your travel.

Submitted papers will be reviewed by a programme committee and selected participants invited to present their work at the workshop. These presentations will be complemented by use cases presented by a number of the project partners.

If you'd like to organise your own meeting alongside a Share-PSI 2.0 workshop, please let us know. The value in the events is to bring people together and to create a genuine Europe-wide network of stakeholders and face to face meetings are far and away the best way to do that.

Contact

Website
http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi

E-mail
For more information, contact Phil Archer
phila@w3.org

Workshops

30 June – 1 July 2014

Uses of open data within government for innovation and efficiency.

Hosted by University of the Aegean and collocated with the Samos Summit.

3 – 4 December 2014

Encouraging data usage by commercial developers, including half day session with the European Thematic Network on Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information, LAPSI

Lisbon, hosted by the Portuguese Government

March 2015

Identifying data sets for publication

Timisoara, Romania, hosted by the West University

May 2015

A self sustaining business model for open data

Krems, Austria, hosted by the Danube University and collocated with CeDEM 2015

November 2015

Towards greater interoperability

Berlin, hosted by Fraunhofer Fokus and collocated with the Open Data Dialog

Share-PSI 2.0

The network for innovation in European public sector information

February 2014 to July 2016

http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi

Welcome

Share-PSI 2.0 is the European network for the exchange of experience and ideas around implementing open data policies in the public sector. It brings together government departments, standards bodies, academic institutions, commercial organisations, trade associations and interest groups to identify what does and doesn't work, what is and isn't practical, what can and can't be expected of different stakeholders.
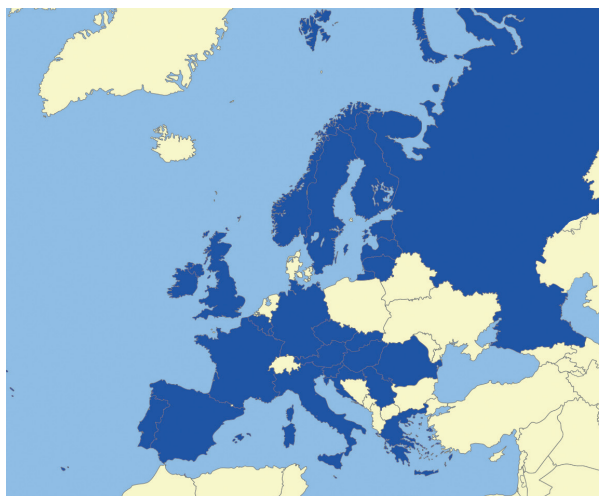
The impetus for the Share PSI 2.0 Thematic Network is the revised European Directive on the Public Sector Information. This revises and increases the obligations on European Union member states to make their publicly funded data available at zero or, at most, marginal cost. Noting the work of the LAPSI project, which is concerned with legal aspects of Public Sector Information, this project focuses on the practical and technical challenges.

- What data is covered by the Directive?

- How should it be published?

- What can be done to maximise the return on investment, whether in terms of internal efficiencies or external commercial development. What are the existing best standards to use, what new standards need to be developed?

These and many more questions are being addressed by Share-PSI 2.0.

The Thematic Network

The 44 partners cover 25 countries meaning that the Share-PSI 2.0 reaches the majority of European countries and goes beyond the EU.

The network comprises:

- 3 standards bodies;

- 15 government departments, both national and local;

- 17 academic institutions involved directly in public sector information dissemination and usage;

- 8 commercial bodies from micro-companies to enterprise;

- 3 organisations that one might think of as citizen engagement bodies and open data advocates.

It is this rich pool of knowledge and experience that comes together in Share-PSI 2.0.

Approach

The main activity of the network is to organise a **series of workshops** examining different aspects of PSI (see overleaf). In each workshop, the network partners with direct experience will present their case studies.

The output of the workshops will be offered as input to the **W3C Data on the Web Best Practices Working Group**. As the name suggests, that group is compiling a W3C standard that will help guide people and organisations around the world as they build the Web of data.

Towards the end of the Share-PSI 2.0 network's life (the first half of 2016), the partners will incorporate the W3C Best Practice in their own guidelines as relevant to them in their country or sector of interest.

You can comment on the work of the W3C Data on the Web Best Practices Working Group at any time via **public-dwbp-comments@w3.org**.