Towards Data Services Ecosystem in Lithuania

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It is widely agreed that data is becoming more and more valuable resource in today's economy, it can enable creation of added value in various forms – new innovative data-based services, new businesses and jobs, more accurate information for citizens, companies and governments, better transparency of public sector operation, citizen participation and other aspects. For this potential (according to sources up to EUR 40bn of direct impact to EU economy) to be unlocked and realised, relevant institutions need to provide strong leadership in both policy making and practical terms. While legislative basis for sharing public sector information and opening data is in place, implementing regulations are often not in force, nor are the best practices established and followed. It is important that public sector institutions, which own and govern substantial amount of data and have enough authority to promote data re-use, attract commercial developers and encourage them, would take the lead and initiate creation of data services ecosystems.

In Lithuania, such institution capable to lead creation of synergies between the public and private sectors in emerging (open) data economy is State Enterprise Centre of Registers[1], a public entity of limited civil liability incorporated by the Government on the basis of the State-owned property on 8 July 1997. The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania is an institution exercising the rights of the owner of the Centre of Registers. The primary function of the Centre of Registers is the administration of four main state registers - Real Property Register and Cadastre, the Register of Legal Entities, Citizen Register and the Address Register. In fact, the Centre of Registers acts as a centre of excellence of the Lithuania's public sector in creating and developing register-data-based systems. The Enterprise also runs its own certification authority - the Certification Centre of the Centre of Registers.

Lithuanian Centre of Registers has started a number of initiatives in the area of data services and cloud-based environment for commercial developers to create and host such services, providing not only the data but also an environment, a platform, which will facilitate creation, composition and re-use of both data and services in a services marketplace form.

Lithuanian National Software and Services Cluster[2], an association of ICT companies and leading Lithuanian universities is working together with the Centre of Registers and other public institutions in Lithuania facilitating creation of required local synergies and practices between the public sector and commercial companies, also looking for potential partners to initiate international projects.

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[1] Lithuanian Centre of Registers - http://www.registrucentras.lt/index_en.php?_kkd=en

[2] http://www.nsstp.lt/