

Lisbon Share PSI 2.0 Workshop – Session proposal. Open Data Incubators to boost economic growth

Unfortunately, only a few examples can be presented as real success of commercial public sector data exploitation. The problem is beyond the lack of skills of re-users. Although developers, journalists, and scientists are able to understand and process data, the culture of data in our society is almost inexistent —I wonder how many people find useful their online bank offers all the account activity in a downloadable spreadsheet—.

SMEs trying to start business out of PSI reuse face many other technical challenges: update and persistence of data, continuous service (US Government shutdown last year), heterogeneous formats, etc. Perhaps, the biggest issue for these new companies is developing a profitable business model sustainable in time. Of course, this is not just an exclusive Open Data field problem.

Business incubators focused on Open Data could be a solution to have more successful examples and see that promised economic growth. This session could analyse those cases of business accelerators related to public data ([ODI's Startup Programme](#), [Startupbootcamp](#), [FP7 Open Data Reuse Incubator](#), [Open Data Lab...](#)), arising some questions:

- Do we need specific incubators for Open Data (instead of using general tech business incubators)?
- Do hackathons generate business (or just proof of concepts)?
- It's a re-users' conceptual problem (not aware of what they can do with data)?
- Should governments spend more resources in opening better data instead of launch these incubators/accelerators?
- Should private companies sponsor these activities?
- What is more important, business model o a good product?
- Is economic growth in Open Data an utopia?

*Martin Alvarez-Espinar – CTIC
martin.alvarez@fundacionctic.org*