Summary of the session FINODEX facilitated by Miguel Garcia

03/12/2015 9:25-11:00, Lisbon

18 people attending. Attendance is a mix of people working in research centres and SMEs.

Finodex is a European Commission funded project that supports the creation of new businesses based on FIWARE and open data. 2 open calls will be issued to partially fund and support the development of businesses that reuse open data as well as the FIWARE platform funded by the European Commission.

An open call has opened and will close on Dec. 19th, 2014. It is expected to support 50 projects over several phases of development. It will provide partial funding and support to the development of business services, including the connection to investors for instance.

Practice 1: An open data business accelerator

- **What X is the thing that should be done to publish and reuse PSI?**
  Encourage entrepreneurs to use Open Data through accelerator programmes and encourage data publishers to publish more data.

- **Why does X facilitate the publication or reuse of PSI?**
  Accelerators facilitate the publication of data because they help show examples of use and impact to data publishers. They enable publishers to imagine what could be achieved if more data is available.
  New business ideas can help pressure publishers to publish new data.
  Accelerators on open data offering funds and services (training) attract a good number of companies which have never heard before about open data. They are a great tool to stimulate the demand with a commercial use.
  Accelerators also effectively help generate new business ideas reusing data and accompany the creation of sustainable businesses and services rather than the development of good ideas with no sustainable planning.
  By supporting the creation of sustainable businesses and a business ecosystem out of open data, it would help opening more data in the long term. An accelerator can help building a business ecosystem around open data.

- **How can one achieve X and how can you measure or test it?**
  It is necessary to award 'no strings attached' funding, to demonstrate value to publishers through new companies, and to have phased funding mechanisms.
  The accelerator success is measured in particular through the number of proposals, their quality and the sustainability of the business services supported through a set of KPIs allowing to easily check the preferred domains, the kinds of data re-used, the private funds raised, etc.

Practice 2: a technical infrastructure to support open data reuse

- **What X is the thing that should be done to publish and reuse PSI?**
  A technical infrastructure such as FIWARE which provides services to businesses.
- **Why does X facilitate the publication or reuse of PSI?**
  Support to businesses
- **How can one achieve X and how can you measure or test it?**
  An infrastructure needs to be sustainable, e.g., through the use of open source software, even if the support service is not for free. The number of services and the way in which they have been used to support the creation of new businesses is a way of measuring it.

Practice 3: A catalogue and single access point to open (and non open) datasets

- **What X is the thing that should be done to publish and reuse PSI?**

Catalogues and single access points to datasets which are open and / or actually usable, whether open or not (e.g., Twitter data are not open but they are still partially available to potential reusers).

- **Why does X facilitate the publication or reuse of PSI?**

The availability of a critical mass of data is important to support a wide variety of use cases, free data helps decreasing the cost of developing new businesses. Simple access points helps potential reusers access the data easily.

- **How can one achieve X and how can you measure or test it?**

Develop data catalogues which clarify IPR but do not only include open data and not only include public sector data but all data that can be relevant for the development of businesses so that reusers can use services developed according to their needs.

Usage of the data catalogues and coverage of the data catalogues can be measured.

Practice 4: Awareness raising to potential commercial reusers

- **What X is the thing that should be done to publish and reuse PSI?**

Awareness raising actions on what open data is and how it can be used are critical to foster the reuse of public sector information. There is a lot of misconception regarding open data :

- Published data is assumed to be open. There is a lack of knowledge on licensing of data. If it is published many companies think they can use it.

- Business can only reuse data commercially if they re-publish the data

- **Why does X facilitate the publication or reuse of PSI?**

Awareness raising can help potential reusers improve existing services, show case their products or develop new businesses because many potential reusers do not know what open data is and what potential it has. It can also help reusers understand which data they can reuse over the long run without putting their business at risk (e.g., if a data publisher asks to stop scraping a Website).

- **How can one achieve X and how can you measure or test it?**

Many companies already reuse data which is not actually open although it is available. In many cases companies use data which they assume are open because they are published. Not following IPR also has also allowed the creation of partnerships and businesses when data producers realized that companies illegally scraping their Website were increasing their traffic. Awareness raising on licensing issues should therefore provide solutions rathers than only focus on the additional constraints for commercial reusers.

Awareness raising should emphasize the variety of ways in which data can be reused. Open data commercial reuse should not be only understood as the creation of services that republish data even with a new visualization model. Companies can reuse open data in many other ways e.g., to improve existing services or to show case products. "Open Data Entrepreneur" is a concept which puts too much emphasis on the dependence of the entreprises on open data. However data is just a resource like many others. Open data is a support tool with many other sources.

Awareness raising actions can be measured through the quantity and quality of proposals submitted to accelerators for instance and the number of data reusers (partially known by data producers and open data portals).

Practice 5: Opening a dialog between data producers and commercial reusers (sketchy one)

- **What X is the thing that should be done to publish and reuse PSI?**
  Mechanisms (examples here????) to support the dialog between data producers and commercial reusers can help the opening of new datasets directly usable to reusers.

- **Why does X facilitate the publication or reuse of PSI?**
  Currently they often use a different language. They do not distinguish customers and users and perceive social version financial value of opening data.

- **How can one achieve X and how can you measure or test it?**
  Highlighting the value chain (????). Establish a loop for feedback retrieval.
  [Implementing round tables such as the one set up by Noël in Flanders.]