D6.4 OPEN DATA POLICY FRAMEWORK REPORT

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Reviewer: Elena Simperl, SOTON

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1. Executive summary

This deliverable summarises policy activities that were carried out during the 30 months of the ODINE project. It focuses on analysing the impact of the several policy activities of the ODINE consortium, partners and companies founded by ODINE as of July 2017. It also provides guidance intended to support the drafting of both new and revised policies, and review and feedback on the content of existing policies based on the experience from the ODINE consortium partners.

2. Motivation

A well-written open data policy will clearly define the commitment of the organisations (private, public, governments, etc.) to publishing, sharing and consuming data. It will be used by internal stakeholders to help identify and prioritise releases, and by external stakeholders to understand how the organisation will be releasing its data and ways in which they can be involved. The ODINE consortium believes that creation of an open data policy is an important element of developing a strong open data practice.

Data exists on a spectrum: it can be closed, shared, or open. Open data is data that anyone can access, use and share. A growing number of public and private sector organisations are looking for open data policies that outline how they intend to openly publish data. Increasingly, many organisations are also relying on open data published by governments and by other organisations in their sector. An open data policy can also help encourage informed reuse of third-party data and foster the open data ecosystem.

The guidance draws on an informal review of both publicly shared policy documents, as well as those shared with the ODI, ODINE and OKFDE for feedback. It was used for the policy work done by the ODINE consortium outlined under Chapter 4.

2.1 Policy makes a difference

The impact of a good open data policy is best explained by comparing the number of startups that applied for and were funded through the ODINE programme from different EU Countries. The UK has introduced an open data law several years earlier than Germany; we believe this has resulted in the considerable difference in the number of companies applying to ODINE from the UK, versus those from Germany. Twice as many UK based startups applied and were admitted into the programme as compared to their German counterparts.

Furthermore, the experience of two ODINE alumni is also vastly different: OpenCorporates (UK) and Implisense (Germany) which are both operating in a similar business sector. While OpenCorporates has full access to the companies register in the UK, Implisense does not, because the company register is not open in Germany (all the efforts to open the company or transparency register were blocked in Germany). This reduces the range of services the German

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startup can offer and give the UK a market advantage for more frictionless business data.

### 3. Key elements of a good open data policy

An open data policy will include some general context that helps to define its scope. For example:

- **a definition of open data** – why it is important to the organisation and the reasons for defining a policy
- **a general declaration of principles** that should guide the release and reuse of open data
- **an outline of the types of data** collected by the organisation and whether they are covered by the policy
- **references to any relevant legislation, policies or other guidance** which also apply to the management and sharing of information with third-parties

Clearly stating the scope of a policy will help all stakeholders to reach a common understanding of how, when and where it should be applied.

A good policy will also consider the following elements:

- **approach to identifying and prioritising data for release** – how will data be inventoried, reviewed and then released?
- **privacy considerations** – ensuring that personal information is not released by mistake and recommending steps to mitigate, e.g. by undertaking privacy impact assessments or approaches to anonymisation
- **data licensing and reuse rights** – this will include not only the licence under which data will be released, but also the importance of clearing rights during data collection
- **data publishing standards** – ensuring that data is shared in well-structured, machine-readable formats, with clear metadata and documentation
- **engaging with reusers** – how the organisation will work with external stakeholders to help guide release of data and ensure it can be easily used,
- **measuring success** – what metrics the organisation will use to measure whether the policy is successful and how these measures will be shared
- **approach to consuming open data** – for organisations that are reusing open data, guidance on how to identify high quality datasets and ensure reuse rights are clear
- **policy transparency** – how the policy and the processes it describes will be reviewed based on feedback from stakeholders and lessons learned

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3 Interview with Implisense
4 See the upcoming IDC report on the effect of the ODINE project for details on country comparison.
5 Based on drafting experience and practice.
6 https://sunlightfoundation.com/opendataguidelines/
A policy document will not necessarily include detailed information on each of these areas, e.g. specific standards or release processes. It will instead focus on general principles that should be followed and which may inform the drafting of more detailed guidance for practitioners.

The following sections provide checklists of policy elements that can inform the drafting and review of open data policies.

**Concrete policy commitments** – what the organisation is committing to do, in exact terms, over the timespan of the policy

- Is there a clear definition of closed, shared and open data?[^7]
- Does the policy outline why publishing and consuming open data is of benefit to the organisation?
- Does the policy describe the types of data that the organisation collects and stores, with an indication of which types of dataset might be suitable for release?
- Does the policy reference relevant legislation or other organisational policies and best practices that are relevant to the application of the policy?
- Is there a clear declaration of the principles that underpin the policy? For example, whether the organisation is adopting the open data charter.[^8]

**Data licensing and reuse rights**

- Does the policy have a clear recommendation of the default open licence[^9] under which data is to be released?
- Is there reference to the need to ensure that the rights to publish are properly cleared and understood, starting from when data is collected through to its publication?
- Does the policy refer to where open data might be embedded in procurement processes?

**Identifying and prioritising data for release**

- Does the policy highlight if and how data might be prioritised for release? E.g. based on user feedback, FOI requests, etc
- Does the policy note the importance an inventory of internal data assets to help drive the data release process?
- Does the policy outline the process by which data will be released, especially highlighting any decision points, risk assessments, etc?

**Privacy considerations**[^10]

[^7]: http://theodi.org/blog/closed-shared-open-data-whats-in-a-name
[^8]: http://opendatacharter.net/principles/
[^10]: [Deliverable D5.6](#)
● Does the policy clearly indicate that personal data should not and will not be released as open data, unless there is either consent from affected parties or other legitimate basis for its release?
● Does the policy indicate the need to anonymise or aggregate data prior to its release?
● Does the policy reference relevant data protection laws and standards that relate to the collection and subsequent sharing of data?

Data publishing standards

● Does the policy state that data will be published in both human and machine-readable formats, with a preference for open standards to encourage wide reuse?
● Is the creation of good quality metadata and supporting documentation highlighted as an important aspect of publishing high-quality data?
● Does the policy suggest measuring quality of publication against industry best practices, e.g. using open data certificates?

Engaging with reusers

● Does the policy set out how users can engage with the publisher to request and help prioritise data for release?
● Are there channels for users to provide feedback, e.g. on quality issues or to ask for clarifications?
● Does the policy outline a wider strategy for engaging with reusers, e.g. through workshops, industry events, etc?

Approach to consuming data

● Is there clear guidance on how to identify whether third-party open data is appropriately licensed for reuse?
● Are there suggestions for how to find and source reliable, high-quality data, e.g. by reference to government or industry portals, or services like open data certificates?

Concrete commitments

● Does the policy state what the organisation will do in terms of improving its own capability, including development of further guidance and training for its staff?
● Does the policy make concrete commitments to the publication of particular open data within the timeframe of the policy (e.g. a number of datasets within one year)?
● Does the policy make commitments about the quality of publication of open datasets (e.g. that a certain percentage will have achieved a specific rating of open data certificate\(^\text{11}\))?

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\(^{10}\) For further details regarding privacy see D4.5 Privacy Tool-Kit v2.0

\(^{11}\) https://certificates.theodi.org/
● Does the policy commit to datasets that are released being maintained over time, and for how long?

Policy transparency

● Does the policy indicate the timespan that the policy covers?
● Is it clear how the open data policy will be revised and how feedback can be provided?
● Is the responsible party for the policy identified?

For further details the open data maturity model\(^\text{12}\) also includes relevant guidance that highlights how an mature organisation will implement a number of the more detailed processes and policies.

\(^{12}\) The open data maturity model is a way to assess how well an organisation publishes and consumes open data, and identifies actions for improvement. http://theodi.org/maturity-model
4. Policy activities by ODINE

ODINE contributed to several policy making activities. Right from the beginning, we were involved in policy discussions and projects in different countries: in the UK, Germany, Austria and at the European and international levels. In the following, we list the most important policy activities by the ODINE consortium.

4.1 Germany

One of the focus areas of our policy activities was Germany and the German open data act. Germany was selected for three reasons: Germany had no open data act, the size of the German economic output in Europe and the forerunner role of Germany for several neighbouring countries.

The ODINE consortium was heavily involved in getting the most positive outcome of the German data act, which is in effect since July 13.

4.1.1 Open data law

On July 13, 2017 Germany’s first open data law came into effect, finally enabling free access to government data. The Open Data law is part of the change of the German E-Government law13 (for translation of the new law see Appendix). While it is neither part of the freedom of information act nor an actual transparency law, it provides the judicial foundation for obtaining data from all public authorities subject to the federal government. The authorities will provide raw data on publicly accessible networks, if it was stored in an electronically structured form and includes facts that regard circumstances outside of the administration. Furthermore, a central support agency for open data will be established.

The involvement of the ODINE consortium started in 2015, where ODINE members supported the KAS study “Open Data. The Benefits - The economic potential for Germany”.14 The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung also held a conference on Open Data in December 2015, where Nigel Shadbolt of the ODI was there as well as the German ODINE partners. Furthermore, joint civil society actions were coordinated at a meeting at the Stiftung Neue Verantwortung15 in December 2015. The inclusion of such partners is crucial in the law-making process, because it provides a broader alliance and influence for future lobbying efforts, especially once the topic is out of the public’s attention. For the majority of the current legislative period, the Open Data Law was not part of the public agenda, but concentrated community efforts eventually paid off. On the 18th of April the study of the KAS was presented, just on the day before the federal ministry of economics’ first conference on Open Data on 19th April 201616 to have the full impact.

The topic really started to gather attention in the late summer of 2016, when the government’s internal position paper on the key aspects of a possible open data law got published.17 The initial plans for the law were subject to massive criticism throughout the community and industry, because it did not call for obligatory publishing of the data and included a large number of

13 https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/egovg/__12a.html
14 http://www.kas.de/wf/de/33.44906/
15 https://www.stiftung-nv.de/de
16 ODINE was presented
exceptions. A first roundtable was convened at Fraunhofer Fokus Institute in October 2016 collecting improvement suggestions.

The first draft of the law was eventually published in December 2016 and was thoroughly reviewed together with our community\(^{18}\). Thereafter, we published a public statement calling\(^{19}\) for less publication exceptions and a reduction in the maximum time for data publication from 3 to 2 years. Furthermore, we continuously widened our advocacy efforts for a proper Open Data Law on several issues such as open weather data\(^{20}\), the beneficial ownership register\(^{21}\) and E-Government in Germany\(^{22}\). Further actions were coordinated with Bitkom’s\(^{23}\) Open Data Taskforce in February 2017.\(^ {24} \)

This dedication and planning paid off, when the law eventually passed - as part of a 24 hour law-making marathon in May 2017 - substantial parts had been improved, in line with our demands. The restrictive regulations prohibiting access were dropped significantly and not only new but also existing datasets were included in the proposal. Furthermore, data publication was made obligatory and the maximum time for publication reduced from 3 to 2 years. Also to mention are private as well as personal meetings at party think tanks (in double figures), net political related events to meet stakeholder and actors (in high double figures), meeting with members of the German parliament (in double figures) in the period of fall 2016 until summer 2017 regarding the German open data law.

Nonetheless, the open data law has its flaws, instead of making the law part of the freedom of information act (FOIA),\(^ {25} \) it only covers data in tabular form, excluding written documents. Furthermore, the federal structure of Germany prohibits the law of covering the regional authorities (Bundesländer)\(^ {26} \). Therefore, the law only covers data of those public authorities directly subordinate to the federal administration. Similarly, universities and research agencies that are only indirectly subordinate to the federal administration are not part of the law.

All ODINE funded companies located in Germany supported that cause. This multi-sided approach and coordinated effort with our partners was nicely pulled off. Without the ODINE project the current state of open data and the open data act in Germany would be in a much, much worse state.

Since there is so far no official English translation\(^ {27} \) of the new open data law we have translated the new Open Data act as part of this deliverable, see Appendix. The Open Data act is a great achievement and will provide further open data sets (not just for the 9 German companies that ODINE funded) and sets a positive example for other countries.

\(^{18}\) Several meetings like at CCC and feedback rounds and direct consultation with stake holders

\(^{19}\) https://okfn.de/blog/2017/01/odgesetz-stellungnahme/

\(^{20}\) https://okfn.de/blog/2017/04/wettergesetz/

\(^{21}\) https://okfn.de/blog/2017/02/transparenzregister

\(^{22}\) https://okfn.de/blog/2017/06/Moderner-Staat/

\(^{23}\) Bitkom is Germany’s digital association. Founded in 1999 as a merger of individual industry associations in Berlin, we represent more than 2,400 companies in the digital economy, among them 1,000 SMEs, 300 start-ups and almost all global players. We coordinated with them our open data policy approach.

\(^{24}\) https://www.bitkom.org/Bitkom/Organisation/Gremien/OpenData-Open-API.htm

\(^{25}\) https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_ifg/index.html

\(^{26}\) According to current news, this law should be also come to the regional levels.

\(^{27}\) Should be provided by the BMI in the near future.
4.1.2 Open weather data law

The consortium member OKFDE wrote an official statement\textsuperscript{28} for the upcoming open weather data law in Germany in 2017. The timing of the open weather data law initiative parallel to the open data act itself was a surprise for all involved stakeholders. We has reacted quickly and swiftly to take this opportunity. A member of the consortium also made a statement at the German Bundestag’s hearing\textsuperscript{29}. The law passed with the outcome regarding the open data aspects as we were looking for. We leveraged our network of community and people from the weather industry across Europe to provide feedback and understand the specifics the specifics and inner workings of the industry. The law is since 25th of July 2017 in effect.\textsuperscript{30}

4.1.3 Policy case studies: Deutsche Bahn, Stromnetz Berlin, Ministries

The consortium has a strong working relationship\textsuperscript{31} with the Deutsche Bahn (DB). Reasons therefor are, the possible opening of the valuable and interesting public transportation data to improve the life of German passengers, the effect on other markets and a prime case to push open data within Germany (as the the saying goes, if a large and supposedly slow company like DB can do it, anybody can). Furthermore, when it comes to prove the value of open data in terms of economic, social and environmental impact, public transportation data is one of the most interesting options.

Out of this working experience the rettedeinennahverkehr\textsuperscript{32} (saveyourpublictransportation) initiative was established in December 2016 and continuously supported by ODINE. The aim of this project is to open up transportation data in Germany and provide a data standard. The current status can be found here.\textsuperscript{33} Currently as of July 2017 we had several workshops and contact with several linked transportation systems. The initiative won a recognition award by the German Industry.\textsuperscript{34} One of the main goals was to set open data as a mandatory requirement for the new transportation contracts. For that we are working on boilerplate contracts and are in contact with the Ministry of Transportation. The results will be more open data for the startups and companies, as well as better routing options for customers in Germany. The goal is to reach the open data quality and service that Switzerland can offer.\textsuperscript{35}

The ODINE consortium also supported Stromnetz Berlin with their open data strategy over the last years. One outcome was the establishment of the open data working group of the Berlin utility providers and on 22nd and 23rd of September another energy hack day with 30K Euro for sustainable projects, and Stromnetz Berlin is pushing open data within the windnode project.\textsuperscript{36}

We had talk in December 2016 at the OGP in Paris and the digital ensemble event in Berlin. Furthermore, we had ongoing consultations with two ministries. Also thanks to our partner the

\textsuperscript{28} https://okfn.de/blog/2017/04/wettergesetz/
\textsuperscript{29} https://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2017/kw17-pa-verkehr-wetterdienst/503514
\textsuperscript{30} See the new portal for open weather data: https://opendata.dwd.de/
\textsuperscript{31} Working on opening up data and help organizing several hackathons with the DB
\textsuperscript{32} https://rettedeinennahverkehr.de
\textsuperscript{33} https://rettedeinennahverkehr.de/status/
\textsuperscript{34} Land der Ideen 2018 by Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie (BDI), The Federation of German Industries (BDI)
\textsuperscript{35} https://transport.opendata.ch/ or https://opentransportdata.swiss
\textsuperscript{36} http://www.windnode.de/
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung we had an “open data breakfast roundtable” with further ministries to promote open data.

### 4.1.4 City of Berlin open data policy

We supported the city of Berlin and their open data activities on various occasions. We coordinated this effort with our partner Technologie Stiftung Berlin. In 2017 we were part of the consultation of the new open data approach of the Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Technologie und Forschung. We were active in the programme committee for the open data day in Berlin 2017. We also advised local Berlin parties (across the political spectrum) on their open data and FOIA positions and briefed local stakeholders and party members (again, across the political spectrum). And we were involved in several smart city and open data planning activities. One example being the open data & smart city panel at the re-publica 2017 in Berlin. We were trying to combine the open data AG efforts from the utility providers with the approach from the city and the open community within the city, this still an ongoing process.

### 4.1.5 Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

We were working together with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), on their events, their study and their OGP approach. According to Thomas Jarzombek a member of the German parliament, the study itself was, “the most useful tool to get the open data act passed”. This partnership was very effective.

### 4.1.6 Digitaler Staat

Due our the effort regarding the open data act and the recognized expertise we were invited to give a statement for Digitale Agenda session in the German Bundestag in June 2017, where we painted a picture of how the future digital government could and should work with respect to open data.

### 4.2 Austria

In Austria, we had a series of meeting with people from the current administration and people of the city of Vienna and city of Graz. Unfortunately, there is no plan for national open data act in Austria so far. By October 2017 a catalog of possible open data sets for the future should be established. We also got several background meetings in period of 2016 to 2017. We actively supported initiatives on open voting results and public transportation data. On the OGP initiatives some progress was made and the recognition of open data was increased.

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37 Open Data Conference 2015, Cebit 2017, ...
38 http://www.kas.de/wf/de/33.44906/
39 Public statement at KAS event “Deutschland. Das nächste Kapitel” 30.06.2017
40 https://okfn.de/blog/2017/06/Moderner-Staat/
41 Top-level and minister, 1h background-meeting
42 Snap election will be held in Austria on the 15th of October 2017, might influence some results.
43 http://offenewahlen.at
44 https://www.offene-oefifs.at/
45 More details on open data in policy papers, also more media coverage
4.3 UK

4.3.1 Open banking standard

In September 2015, the Open Banking Working Group (OBWG) was set up by the consortium including our partner ODI with the aim to explore how data could be used to help people transact, save, borrow, lend and invest their money. Making it possible to share data that banks have historically kept secret will improve people’s banking experience. When securely shared or published openly (using open APIs), the data can be used to build useful applications and resources to help people find what they need. Customers can look for a mortgage more easily, banks can find customers matched to a new product, and businesses can share data with their accountants. This, in turn, will improve efficiency and stimulate innovation. The tremendous report can be found here.46 A summary report is available here.47

4.3.2 Suade FIRE standard

The ODINE company Suade developed the Financial Regulatory (FIRE) data format,48 which defines a common specification for granular regulatory data. Regulatory data refers to the data that underlies regulatory submissions and is used for policy, monitoring and supervision purposes. The FIRE data schemas and code samples are licensed under the Apache 2.0. As a result, they also published a useful best practices guide for data standards.49

4.3.3 Rentsquare

The UK ODINE startup rentsquare50 is involved in policy making to make housing in London more affordable again with open data. Rentsquare is about finding a rent sweet spot between the money landlords need to make, and closer to what tenants can realistically afford using openly available data and freely share with everyone what a better rent price looks like. This transparency and information enables people to have the information they need to make their own choices and can help them to get a fairer deal and people.

4.3.4 Fitness standard

OpenActive is an initiative to create an open standard51 for the fitness industry, developed by the open active community and also coordinated by imin, an ODINE startup and the ODI, helping to make data on what, where and when physical activity sessions happen, openly available; like details of a sports class, its cost and availability. The aim is to convince the UK government to

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48 https://github.com/SuadeLabs/fire/wiki
50 https://www.rentsquare.io/
mandate that all future contracts that include government-held physical activity data must remain open and available for all organisations to easily access and use.  

4.4 Ireland

The ODINE startup Derilinx is actively involved in shaping the open data policy in Ireland. In July 2017 it was rewarded by the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) and included in the National Framework for the Provision of Technical Assistance and Support to Ireland’s Open Data Initiative.  

4.5 International

Next to the activities within national borders, we were also active internationally through the activities listed in this section.

4.5.1 Open data ranking

In several countries (Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Italy, Spain, Ireland) members of the ODINE team and funded companies were actively involved in the creation and compilation of the The Global Open Data Index in 2015 and 2017. The ranking was useful to show positive examples to policy makers and assess progress at national and international levels from one year to another.

4.5.2 OGP

The ODINE consortium worked intensively to get as much open data into various OGP initiatives as possible. At international level, this was done during International Open Data Conference 2016, Open Government Partnership and the corresponding open data working groups, as well as the German OGP initiative, where consortium members led the open data group.

5. Conclusion

This document has given an overview of our contributions to policy making at various scales. The results are impressive and have tremendous impact, especially considering that support to policy makers was not the main focus on ODINE. In many cases, the effects of our work will be long lasting. We can show great direct results, such as the open data act in Germany, but also equally relevant indirect results, such as new and stronger alliances in the (open) data ecosystem which will provide long term data opportunities for European companies. Overall, there was a successful common thread running across of the different policy activities, aiming to provide more data for the ODINE triple bottom line, that is achieving economic, social and environmental benefits.


54 https://index.okfn.org/

55 First national action plan of Germany is delayed and should be announced in August 2017.
6. Appendix

Policy related events and meetings

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**Estimate of interaction and reach with respect to policy issues**
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<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date (Start Date)</th>
<th>Date (End Date)</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>Gdansk, Poland</td>
<td>17 Mar 2016</td>
<td>18 Mar 2016</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Policy coordination</td>
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<tr>
<td>KAS</td>
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<td>Open Data Benefits Study press conference</td>
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<td>19 Apr 2016</td>
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<td>Ministry of Economics Conference</td>
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<td>Tic Tec Conference</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
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<td>re:publica</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>2 May 2016</td>
<td>4 May 2016</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Policy talks</td>
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<td>CEDEM</td>
<td>Krems, Austria</td>
<td>18 May 2016</td>
<td>20 May 2016</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Policy meeting Austria</td>
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<td>Vienna</td>
<td>24 May 2016</td>
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<td>Helsinki</td>
<td>31 Aug 2016</td>
<td>01 Sep 2016</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12 Oct 2016</td>
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<td>Drucker Forum</td>
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<td>Meetings</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Vienna</td>
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<td>Paris</td>
<td>7 Dec 2016</td>
<td>9 Dec 2016</td>
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<td>Open data as part of OGP, KAS meeting with German Interior Ministry</td>
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<td>French-German</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
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<td>13 Dec 2016</td>
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<td>Policy talks</td>
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</table>
In addition to the events from the previous table, we have participated in various other, unlisted private events and personal meetings at party think tanks (in double figures), net political related events to meet different categories of relevant stakeholders (in double figures), and with MPs of the German Parliament (in double figures) between fall 2016 and summer 2017, regarding the German open data law. Special thanks to all the partners involved, netzpolitik.org, KAS, SNV, Fraunhofer Fokus, Bitkom, digitalegesellschaft and open data community.
German Open Data Act\textsuperscript{57}

Disclaimer: This is not an official translation, but was undertaken internally by OKFDE to the best of our knowledge.

Law for the advancement of digital public administration
(E-Government-Law - EGovG)
§ 12a Open Data for public authorities subordinate to the federal administration

(1) The public authorities subordinate to the federal administration will provide raw data, obtained fulfilling their public-law duties or through third parties, to be retrieved on publicly accessible networks. A claim for the provision of this data is not founded herewith.

(2) Paragraph 1 clause 1 holds only for data that,
1. is available to the authorities in electronical form and a structured collection, especially tables and lists,
2. exclusively includes facts that regard circumstances outside of the administration
3. is not the result of another authorities' data handling subject to the federal administration
4. was not edited after data collection, unless the editing followed through lawful or factual reasoning and the publication of the data would not have been possible without it, and
5. was not collected for research purposes.

(3) Divergent from paragraph 1 clause 1 the data does not need to be provided, if
1. the data has
   a) no or only a partial right of access exists especially following §§ 3 to 6 of the freedom of information law,
   b) a right of access only exists when including third parties,
2. the data is generated without an assignment by third parties and is provided without a lawful obligation or
3. the data is already provided for free on a publicly accessible network.

(4) The provision of the data following paragraph 1 clause 1 is to be carried out immediately after collection, as long as the purpose of collection is not impaired, otherwise immediately after the impairment is over. If the immediate provision is not possible due to technical or other grave reasons, the data is to be provided immediately after the impairment is over.

(5) The data will in principle be provided in a machine-readable format. They are to be provided with metadata. The metadata will be included in the national metadata portal GovData.

(6) Obtaining the data following paragraph 1 clause 1 must be free of cost and enable boundless re-utilization for anyone. Obtaining the data following paragraph 1 sentence 1 shall always be possible without obligatory registration or a statement of purpose.

(7) The public authorities subordinate to the federal administration shall prematurely consider the requirements as stated in paragraph 1 clause 1 regarding the following:
1. the optimization of administrative processes corresponding to § 9,
2. the completion of contractual regulations to collect and process data as well as

\textsuperscript{57} \url{https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/egovg/__12a.html}
3. the acquisition of information-technology systems for storing and processing the data.

(8) The public authorities subordinate to the federal administration are not obligated to check the data for correctness, completeness, plausibility or any other manner.

(9) The federal government establishes a central agency which will support the public authorities in case of questions regarding the provision of data as open data and be the contact point for regional authorities.

(10) Every two years the federal government informs the federal parliament on the progress in the provision of data through public authorities subordinate to the federal administration.