

HOMER

Harmonising
Open data in the
Mediterranean through better access and
Reuse of public sector information

newsletter

Homer Partners

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HOMER CONFIRMED ITS NATURE AS AN OPERATING AND RELEVANT PROJECT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE



THE CONFERENCE HELD IN SEVILLE HIGHLIGHTED THE BENEFITS OF OPEN DATA

HOMER (Harmonising Open data in the Mediterranean through better access and

Reuse of public sector information) partners participated in Seville, Spain, in the meeting for the evaluation and monitoring of the project. The meeting coincided with the conference for the mid-point of the project where HOMER, its progress and objectives have been publicly presented.



In this way, those attending the Conference have been able to know more about the project and the works that have been carried out in order to achieve a federated open data portal.

The Conference, held on May 15 in Seville, in the technological area of Isla de la Cartuja, has brought together businessmen, university students and citizens in general that have been able to see the great benefits of open data. The conference was entitled “HOMER and Open Data: an economic and social opportunity for the MED basin”.

The meeting was opened by Catalina Madueño, Director-Manager of the Agencia de Gestión Agraria y Pesquera de Andalucía, partner of the project and organiser of the conference, and by the Director General of Digital Policy of the regional government of Andalucía, Juan Antonio Cobeña, who in his presentation highlighted the need to make progress on projects such as HOMER, encouraging it to become a genuine reality and urging to transform it into a governmental commitment as it is impossible to have Open Data policies if there are not digital, open and transparent governments.



Harmonisation of open data as one of HOMER's objectives

Elsa Pilone, project coordinator, and Luca Guerretta, its manager, both from the Piedmont Region, which is the Lead Partner of HOMER, were responsible for presenting the results of more than one year of work. They also presented the objectives and the next action plan, stressing the importance of opening public data resources for reuse as the public sector information is of great importance from the economic point of view. In this sense, the opportunity provided, from a social point of view, by the the call launched by the MED programme in which HOMER participates, was highlighted.



In this sense, Sophie Scarvelis, representative of the MED operational programme, stressed the improvement of the quality of life of citizens as one of the greatest challenges of this programme. Projects such as HOMER can improve the efficiency of policies since it can make the most of the digital economy to make the Mediterranean area more competitive. It also aims to search actions and common visions through a harmonized governance.

With regard to the new scenario 2014-2020, HOMER proves to be relevant and feasible as the improvement in the access to ICTs at various levels is one of the objectives of the MED programme for this new period.

HOMER presented in Seville its socio-economic study

Eliza Loucaidou, from the Sewerage Board of Limassol, presented the socio-economic study in which HOMER partners have been working and that has allowed to analyse the possibilities that open data offer for the creation of companies, products and services. At the same time, the different obstacles found in the MED regions have been also identified.

The study concludes with a series of recommendations among which we can highlight the need to always start from small-scale initiatives that could be subsequently shared in order to finally federate them. Another recommendation was the need to improve the political commitment.

In any case, as stated in the conference, 76% of the total stakeholders who have data in the MED area is interested in receiving HOMER results.



The regions of the Mediterranean can already show their good practices in the field of open data and open data portals

Throughout the morning, the participants had the opportunity to know more about some good practices on the re-use and exploitation of Open Data and open data portals at national, regional and local levels.

Therefore, the attendants to the conference were able to know experiences such as the REDIAM network of the regional government of Andalusia that allows to have access to free information for a consistent and collaborative environmental management. Another experience shown was Open Culture Data, developed by the Region Emilia Romagna, that is a large-scale project based on cultural data from the archives and institutions of the region.

Meanwhile, the Director-General for new technologies of the government of Aragon, Maria Angeles Rincon, presented the Open Data portal of the region she represents; a portal that has the express support and agreement of the relevant Governing Council. This fact enabled the project to get the information from all departments so that in February 2013, it already had a first draft which was the starting point from which the project would continue making progresses step by step, as she explained.



Finally Christian Villum, of the Open Knowledge Foundation, explained how his Foundation is currently working from the perspective which believes that the time has come to go one step further as not only is having open data necessary but also knowing how they can be used to get the best benefits from them. In this way, it is necessary to involve citizens, businesses and entities in the use of data from a triple perspective: learning, networking, and data literacy.

Two major debates : citizens and experts points of view

The conference held in Seville concluded with two roundtables in the afternoon session.

The first roundtable was entitled “What are the needs of citizens and businesses that can be met through Open Data?”

This table brought together speakers of different profiles that dealt with the current situation of a lack of knowledge of the benefits of the open data at many levels.

The participants in this roundtable were Agustín Torres-Ternero of AGAPA, as conductor, José Antonio Espejo, General Director of BESANA Portal Agrario, Benito Caetano, Vice President of the Press association of Seville, Enrique Piñero, member of the legal department of the consumer's association FACUA and Juan Romero of Openkratio.

The conference ended with a roundtable with experts such as Anna Cavallo of CSI - Piedmont Region, as conductor, Marc Garriga, Director-General of deside Datum, Emilio García, representing the Spanish Ministry for Finance and public administration, Ricard Munné, Coordinator of the project BIG and Enric Staromiejski, consultant of Everis.



HOMER reviewed in Bologna some European regulations and pointed out some good practices for the open data portal

Homer (Harmonising Open data in the Mediterranean through better access and Reuse of public sector information) analysed the European basic legislation to be applied in the construction and management of a future federation of portals of open data in Bologna (Emilia Romana, Italy) on 28 and 29 November 2012. This meeting also highlighted some good practices aimed to get public information to businesses and citizens.

The meeting also emphasized the linkages between personal, open and administration data through terms such as purpose, proportionality or the obligations inherent in a process of information opening such as legitimacy or notification to the owner.



The meeting held in Sardinia was a step forward in the idea of creating alliances and partnerships with other programs of cooperation in the field of Open Data

The meeting that took place on 5th and 6th March in Sardinia, Italy, enabled to make progress on the idea of creating alliances and partnerships with various cooperation programmes of the European Union also working on aspects related to the Open Data.

During the meeting, partners made an analysis of the various programmes of the European Union with which HOMER can establish synergies according to the priorities and thematic areas that they have already defined.

In addition, partners also addressed the creation of the focus group with which alliances and partnerships with other entities will be created in the scope of the different cooperation programmes of the European Union, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP ICT), in addition to the MED Programme itself. Partners pointed out the need to identify new partners and new projects to collaborate with.

Furthermore, partners also talked about the need to analyse the future of these programmes in the new funding framework for the European Union, 2014-2020. Finally, a planning of the work which the group must undertake in the near future was made.

