

HOMER

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

newsletter

Homer Partners

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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HOMER ACTIVITIES: PILOT A AND PILOT B. ACTION PLAN FOR THE CAPITALIZATION OF THEIR RESULTS



The recent progresses made with regard to HOMER have concluded in the production of a series of deliverables which currently allow to face new objectives. In this sense, HOMER has already developed a State-of-the-art aimed at providing an overview of the standards and technical solutions chosen by partners to be

used and recommended by experts in the field of the Open Data in Europe.

In addition, HOMER has also produced a Technical Guide detailing the technical and functional recommendations that seem essential to build an open data portal.

Finally, there is a legal report on licenses describing the current European legal framework governing the re-use of public sector information and focusing on the main legal and economic aspects that the owner of a database should take into account when making its data available to citizens and businesses.

Once these objectives are achieved, the foundations to get new open regional data portals and a federated portal are set. In this way, the actions developed in the framework of this project are currently focused on two pilot activities:

- On the one hand, on the organization of the hackathon called “HACK4MED!” aimed to develop a digital application through the exploitation of public, open and federated databases. This would stimulate private companies to have innovative entrepreneurial ideas to exploit open data through the development of web and mobile applications.

- On the other hand, on an activity whose main objective is to stimulate the participation of citizens in the decision-making process through their access to public information by developing applications created for such purpose.

These activities have been called Pilot A and Pilot B, respectively. In both cases, establishing the activities and guidelines that will enable the partners involved to make progress in achieving the objectives was necessary and, to do this, the meeting held in Montenegro was focused on this important goal as well as the

next meeting that will take place in Slovenia next 11 and 12 December.

The themes on which pilots must be focused are: Environment, Agriculture, Tourism, Energy and Culture.

PILOT A

Pilot A is coordinated by Regione del Veneto and the following partners are involved:

- Agencia de Gestión Agraria y Pesquera de Andalucía, AGAPA.
- Collective Territoriale de Corse – Service de Développement Technologique.
- Decentralized Administration of Crete
- The Greek Free/Open Source Software Society, GFOSS
- University of Crete
- Regione Emilia-Romagna
- Faculty for Information Technology. University Mediterranean of Montenegro
- Regione Piemonte. Direzione Ricerca Innovazione e Università
- Regione de Veneto.



The main objective of this pilot action is to stimulate innovative entrepreneurial ideas to exploit public information. To do this, the partners involved in this pilot action will organise a hackathon that will take place simultaneously in all regions.

In an open data policy in which the principle of free information becomes its foundations, the hacker has the freedom to rethink the mechanisms and devices available to open new and amazing horizons. In this sense, the acts of hacking are new creations or solutions to problems. Thus, hackathons are, basically, a meeting of computer experts capable of discovering all the details of programming systems by developing all their capacities.

The word “Hackathon” comes from the combination of ‘Hack’ and ‘Marathon’, which involves a long and intense activity that takes place in a single session with the aim of creating something useful.

For this reason, HOMER organises a Hackathon where new approaches to solve problems through the reuse of public data may arise.

Thus, the activity of organising a Hackathon must include the previous work in which the partners involved are already working: the call, clear and precise; the previous technical meetings for better operability and the resolution of those problems that may occur in order to avoid them; checking the network; organisation of workshops, signposting and providing correct information to all participants.

All Hackathons are scheduled for May 17.

PILOT B

Pilot B is coordinated by Agency for sustainable Mediterranean cities and territories, (Avitem) and the following partners are involved.



- SBLA Sewerage Board of Limassol.
- Amathus
- Geodetic Institute of Slovenia
- Local Councils’ Association of Malta
- Sociedad Aragones de Gestión Agroambiental SARGA
- Conceil Regional Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur
- University of Crete
- Faculty for Information Technology. University Mediterranean of Montenegro
- Agencia de Gestión Agraria y Pesquera de Andalucía, AGAPA.

One of the main principles of HOMER is that open data can open new possibilities for citizens to participate in the public sphere. For this reason, pilot B has been proposed and designed as a way to research and experiment on how the vast majority of people, thanks to open data, can contribute to improve the quality of life in their territory.



In addition to this general objective – encouraging the participation of citizens in the public sphere - pilot B aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Raising the awareness on the opportunities offered by open data to society at large
- Assessing the demand for open data in specific projects or policies (at community level)
- Improving the creativity of citizens and making the most of it in order to produce innovative initiatives
- Encouraging the reuse of HOMER datasets in the Mediterranean
- Creating new services, tools and new applications.

An event to raise awareness and provide general information about open data is one of the actions to be developed in order to achieve these goals. Some of the partners involved have already organised it.

This event will include the following activities: a presentation on open data and its challenges together with another one about the three workshops that will be carried out in the framework of this pilot action and that will be focused on the participation of citizens and businesses and, finally, the recruitment of potential participants for these workshops.

There is also a possibility of organising a meeting with data providers in order to make them open their public data and put them at the disposal of the project and citizens.

HOMER IS ALREADY WORKING IN ITS ACTION PLAN

Decentralized Administration of Crete is the partner in charge of the HOMER capitalization. This task force develops the actions aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the federated Open Data portal.

It promotes the opening of datasets and also aims to increase the amount of visible datasets from each portal and improve the possibilities offered by the exploitation of digital information in a transnational market by establishing the federation.

Currently, the work of this group is mainly focussed on the development of action plans that include the long term approach and major funding schemes to maintain the strategies of open data and open data portals in the future, taking into account all systems and their interactions, and based on the experience and lessons already learnt.



Some of the actions envisaged in this regard are: review and agreement of a document template for the action plan and a work methodology, generation of a network of people/institutions involved that will contribute to the preparation of the action plan, creation of a census of data and/or reuse of any datasets already made for other tasks of the project, preparation of a draft of action plan, consultation on the draft of the plan, contributions review, approval of an action plan and dissemination.

HOMER EVENTS

The last meetings of the project took place in Marseille (France) and Montenegro (event already mentioned as a great progress was made with regard to pilot A and pilot B).

Regarding the meeting held in Marseille, it was included in the European Open Data week and, among its main conclusions are the great challenges of the future for the project: interoperability to find and discover new data and determine the possibilities of a project in other territories, good practices for actions in the long term and improvement of the reuse of data through standardization and, finally, harmonization of data formats at international level and simplification of legal policies.

The next meeting will be organised in Slovenia on 11 and 12 December.

