Interoperability (as a condition) for open government

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Information explosion resulting in open government
Open spending*: a hallmark of open government?

* http://wheredoesmymoneygo.org/
Creating societal benefits – take societal challenges as a starting point*

* http://amsterdam.smartcityapp.nl/
Nudging – solar cells*

*[http://zonatlas.nl/](http://zonatlas.nl/)*
Who leads open government?*

- People are concerned about the air quality
- Traditionally this is measured and estimated using simulations, but what is the real value in your neighbourhood?
- Internet of Things (IoT) enables low-cost measurements
- Citizens measure the air quality
- Citizens and companies design apps

- Is open government owned by governments?

*https://www.atlasleefomgeving.nl/
Open government expectations

- Open government is about mechanisms used for ensuring effective public oversight

- Key elements
  - Openness
  - Transparency
  - Public accountability
Some challenges to create open government

- Where can we find the data?
- Who owns the data? What is the quality of the data?
- How can data be linked?
- How can the results be visualized?
- How can bias be avoided?
- Is the app user-centric? Does it address a societal problem?
- Is this creating transparency or showing a predefined view on the world?

- This is challenging
- Can we better stop?

- Remember what happens if there is no open government?
WHAT DO WE NEED?
Interoperability at all levels
Interoperability at all levels
Interoperability at all levels

- Technical interoperability
- Information interoperability
- Organizational interoperability
- Legal interoperability
Creating open government – Government as a Platform (GaaP)

Separate infrastructure and user-development

- Agile development
  (uncertainty, flexibility, user-centric)

- Solid infrastructure
  (reuse, reliable, available, ..)
Have the infrastructure

- Digital infrastructure is the foundation
- Usable for a wide range of (not known) opportunities
- Facilitates flexibility
- Contains readable available functions like eID, payment, security, storage, visualization, ...
- Use APIs – Application Programming Interfaces – for creating flexibility
  - API – to install a new server
  - API – to log in
  - API – to access to meta-data
  - API – to access to user preferences
  - API – to visualize on a geographic map
  - ...
- and designers can focus on the user-experience
Have the data

- Base registries: *trusted and authentic sources of information owned by one entity and facilitating reuse*
- Create data portfolios
- Data portfolios provide overview of sources of data
- The ability to effectively and efficiently combine, link and share data will determine the value
- Diverse set of capabilities needed
- Technical, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic interoperability
  - and designers can focus on the user-experience

Agile development

- Requirements and solutions are created through collaboration
- Problem-solving process
- Dealing with uncertainty
- Infrastructure should enable short developments times

- Some principles
  1. Make the societal challenge and value leading
  2. Involve diversity of users
  3. Deliver working software, evaluate and improve
  4. Requirements are changing
  5. Use the infrastructure
  6. ….
What do we expect from users?

Developers expect
• Have the time
• Know the requirements
• Be critical
• Deep knowledge of statistics
• Contribute to social value

In contrast users expect
• Minimal time consumption
• Easy to understand
• No technical knowledge
• Show me my needs
• Provide value for me
Two ways of visualizing - what you don’t want*

Where are we heading for ..

- Open government comes from outside – be prepared!
- Focus on societal problems
- Infrastructure and data interoperability are key conditions
- Indiscriminately copying of ideas result in failure – agile development
- Not every constituent can participate and people are not uniform
- Put citizens central and not politicians (keep them out)
- Understand user behaviour by making design tangible and involving small number of users and continuously improve
- Participations does not results in transparency and trust
- Experiment and experiment …
QUESTIONS?

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