OpenData in France
A fight for transparency

Benjamin Ooghe-Tabanou – Open Knowledge Conference Berlin – July 1st 2011
A democratic and pro-transparency law

One of the first right to access public documents in Europe

An independant authority created to help citizens (on the juridic side and institutional one)

1978 CADA Law : early start...
• Need to improve the CADA law:
  • No existing list: citizens need to identify the documents
  • No investigation power for the CADA
  • No coercive power (yet...)
  • No re-use recognition (yet...)
The 80's data gold rush

- Public institutions start closing their data:
  - IGN (the french ordnance survey)
    - stops respecting the law: « all material paid by public should be freely available » they're not
    - private fundings more and more important in their budget
  - Legal information
    - owned by Reuters or book publishers
Early 2000's: the legal battle

- Access to law should be a public service
  → LegiFrance.gouv.fr
- Strong opposition from editors & publishers
  → Inside job to confront with the situation
- A compromise:
  - Open access to law
  - Data Re-use to be paid
2005: Creation of the APIE

- Promotion of the State's Immaterial Property
- Make the country a trademark
- Sell data as often as they can:
  - Gas prices database (originally created to make prices more transparent to the consumers) 38k€
  - Cities budgets 46k€
2005: PSI Directive transposition

- Better recognition of re-use

- Cultural data excluded, thanks France!...

- Does not include data from private or semi-public companies exercising public services
Transparency rises back

Civil society pushing for Open Data
First initiatives: national level

- Transparency projects
- 1\textsuperscript{st} national OpenDataCamp in Paris (12/2009)
- Data Catalogs
  - Citizen project based on CKAN
  - Commercial project
    http://Data-Publica.fr
- First experiences of data-journalism
Local civil initiatives

- Petitions / Open Letters:
  - LiberTIC Nantes
  - Toulouse citizens
- Barcamps
  - Bourgogne citizens
- Grassroot lobbying (Twitter, blog articles, ...)
- Paris
Local official initiatives

- Pioneer: Rennes
  - Non-commercial licence at first
  - Opening its licence but still not OpenData licence
- Paris
  in ODbL after discussion with the community
- Montpellier, Bordeaux currently under NC...
  → ongoing discussion to be continued...
Current situation over France
On the national level: EtaLab

- Governmental initiative for data.gouv.fr
  - An open data team created on January 2011
  - Preparation of a public OpenData platform
  - New legal framework limiting paying data
  - General hearings about an OpenData licence
  - Draft of the future chosen licence by the summer
  - Beta platform by the end of the year
Lots of news (mostly good...)

... but no gov dataset published as OpenData yet

:(

Regards Citoyens – Benjamin Ooghe-Tabanou
Déclaration sur l'Open Data en France

Nos recommandations concernant l'Open Data

Conformément aux objectifs de la plupart des acteurs engagés dans le développement d'une politique d'accès libre aux données publiques, nous encourageons les administrations publiques, les collectivités territoriales, les EPCI, les EPIC, les EPST et les syndicats mixtes à adopter les recommandations suivantes qui représentent les conditions minimales pour caractériser une véritable ouverture des données publiques telle que définie et reconnue internationalement par l'ensemble des acteurs de l'Open Data, notamment l'Open Knowledge Foundation au Royaume-Uni ou la Sunlight Foundation aux États-Unis.

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