



***HOMER Project:
Making available and exploitable
Public Sector Information***

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Harmonising Open-Data Policies in 13 Mediterranean Regions in 8 European Countries

- Open data are very valuable social goods
- Governments can make their activities more transparent
- Citizens can be better informed and participate in the decision making process
- The reuse of open data is a valuable economic resource for the development of new businesses





HOMER: the Origin

- Open data policies were a frontier policy for the regions;
- Terminology obscured;
- Difficulties in defining a suitable network;
- Governments were not recognising the benefits of making their data open and reusable

The State of the Art before (2011) HOMER

- Isolated and fragmented initiatives at national or regional level in Spain, Italy, France, Greece and Slovenia were under development;
- Citizens were not fully aware about the potential of PSI re-use.





Challenge:

- How can we increase the diffusion of open data and their use in Europe today ?



- HOMER Project's purpose is to stimulate Open Data policies in Med area, through the adoption of tailored ICT/legal and political standards towards the MED cultural and economic framework.



A Strategic MED Project

- HOMER is a strategic project funded under the European Territorial Cooperation Programme MED 2007-2013
- The Programme aims to support a sustainable growth and employment in the MED area, through a transnational cooperation approach
- HOMER overall Budget: 3,666,437.50 EUR
- Started in April 2012 and ends in March 2015





The partnership:

8 territories involved:

Italy, France, Spain, Slovenia, Montenegro, Cyprus, Greece and Malta

through:

- **7 Regional Governments:** Piemonte, Veneto, Sardinia, Emilia Romagna, Andalucía, Crete, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur;
- **5 Public agencies and public service providers:** Sewerage Board of Limassol, Geodetic Institute of Slovenia, the Local Council Association of Malta, GFOSS, SARGA;
- **6 ICT agencies and ICT academic experts:** CSI-Piemonte, FING, Institut de la Méditerranée, Mediterranean University of Montenegro, University of Crete, FUNDITEC;
- **7 Associated partners:** Ministry of ICT of Montenegro, Ministry of Sustainable Development of Montenegro, Presidency of Council of Ministry in Italy, Ministry of Internal Affairs in Greece, Ministry of Environment of Slovenia, CRIGE PACA, Consejería de Agricultura Y Pesca de la Junta de Andalucía;
- **Project Leader:** Piemonte Region, Italy – PM: Mr. Luca Guerretta





Main project's Deliverables:

Open Data Requirements Report:

State of the art on PSI policy and main legal/technical aspects related with OD

Open Data To Do List:

An **operative guide** on technological and licenses aspects to develop OD portals in MED

Open Data Licensing and Legal Report:

To present and harmonise EU, national, regional laws and licensing topics for the re-use of data

Federation of Open Data Portals:

Set-up of a **federated research engine for OD portals** and signing of a MoU

(formal harmonisation of technical and legal aspects among different partners OD portals)

Open Data Socio-economic Impact Analysis in the Mediterranean Area:

Socio-economic study to identify obstacles, and impact of PSI access and exploitation

Most of them are available on HOMER website: www.homerproject.eu



Improve Access to Public Data and the participation of People to Public Policies

- Define and harmonise OD portal technical and legal specifications;
- Support the **development of Open Data Portals** in Aragon, Andalucia, Crete, Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur, Corse, Piemonte, Veneto, Sardinia, Emilia Romagna, Slovenia, Limassol, Malta, Montenegro;
- Implementations of **2 pilot actions on re-use of data:**

Pilot A: "HACK4MED!"

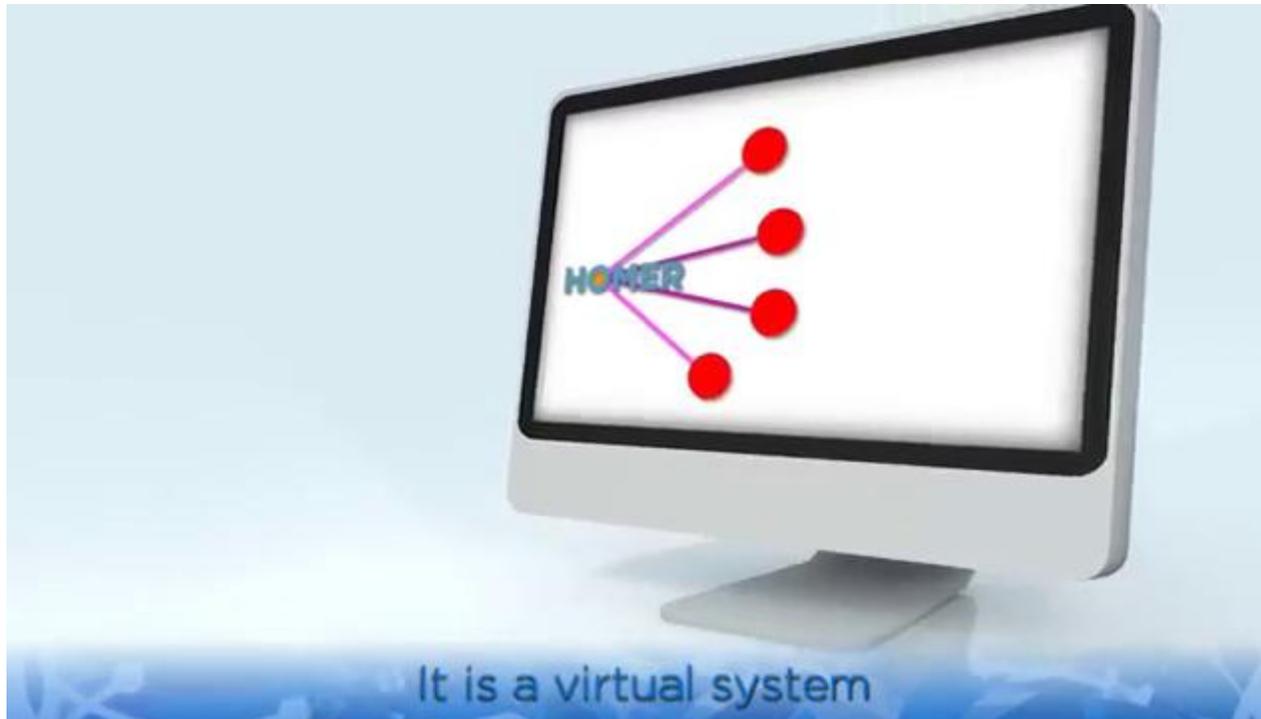
**Pilot B: "PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN THE DEFINITION OF PROJECTS & POLICIES
THROUGH THE
CO-ELABORATION OF NEW SOLUTIONS"**





Progress up-to-date: (1/2)

- HOMER has developed a federation of open data portals
- It is a virtual system that collects **metadata** related to **5 strategic sectors** :
Agriculture, Environment, Culture, Energy and Tourism





Progress up-to-date: (2/2)

- Data are searched through a **semantic multi-language search engine**
- **Supports 7 languages** and uses a common communication model based on **EUROVOC** (multidisciplinary thesaurus)





Experience from the HACK4MED:

- On the 17th of May 2014, hundreds of ICT programmers from **7 Mediterranean Regions**, using the **data from the 7 new Federated Open Data Portals**, and **Federated search index**, participated in a **24-hour programming Marathon!**
- The HOMER Federation today has **over 3.000 datasets** (this number is continuously increasing)
- **33 interesting applications** where developed using the Federated HOMER open data
 - **i.e., for Crete:** Demo application for the **Electronic Environmental Registry** enabling the web-submission and tracking of Environmental Impact Assessment Application and Development consent process
 - It has the capacity, if fully developed, to speed up the planning process, to encourage transparency and the potential to increase sustainable development.
 - A number of tourism demo applications were developed.





Experience and lessons to be shared from a Regional Government Perspective

- **Adoption of a pro Open-Data and services policy action plan** makes environmental and economic sense and can help promote sustainable development in a Region.
- **However, there are some factors which need to be taken into account to avoid pitfalls:**
 - The action plan and infrastructure obtained - created to support the policy (e.g. OD portal) need to be maintainable and managed by the administration itself.
 - **Avoid on-off attempts**, and plan for actions which are utilising realistic in house or freely available resources, can slowly, yet realistically, build an open-data infrastructure for the Region.
 - **Actions to improve (in tandem) e-governance and open-data practice** of Regional government authorities
 - To ensure uptake, we need to make opening data part of everyday governance activities – not add-on process – **link to PSI & INSPIRE legal requirements**
 - **Education & Awareness Raising Activities** (administration, data providers & users, public).



Conclusion: (1/3)

- The collaboration among the different Countries makes it possible to :
 - share knowledge
 - define together the technological, organizational and legal standards to be followed to adopt good policies on open data





Conclusion: (2/3)

- Homer opens hundreds of public data sets
- It improves access to and transparency of the digital heritage of the whole Mediterranean





Conclusion: (3/3)

- HOMER is a **treasure trove**
- It **offers data useful for** research, didactics, market innovation and development of the digital market





HOMER-Project's Ambition:

- It wants to grow and become the model for a transnational open data federation
- It is now open to new topics and new partners
- Each partner carries out its own initiatives on open data and may contribute to the growth of the competences within the federation
- **Vision we would like all EU governments to share !**





*Thank You
for Your Attention!*

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www.homerproject.eu

www.opencrete.gov.gr





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HOMER PARTNERS:

