



PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, February 5, 2015

Page 1 | 3

European Commission initiates development of the pan-European Open Data portal: Fraunhofer FOKUS is responsible for the core part

Fraunhofer FOKUS, a leading Open Data research and development institute, is part of an international consortium which has been awarded by the European Commission to deploy the EU open data platform over the next three years. The goal of this project is to develop, launch and operate a single large-scale pan-European Open Data Portal, which will bring together public data resources from all over Europe on one portal covering 39 European countries, improving the discoverability and the ability to re-use this data. The data is to be made fully public, so the information will be available for every European resident who has access to the internet.

In this project, Fraunhofer FOKUS will introduce its expertise gained in years of national and international open data and linked data projects. Fraunhofer FOKUS will be one of the key technical partners, responsible for developing the data repository and harvesting datasets from existing open data sources. The data repository bundles all different data entries based on their metadata while the harvesting-tools allow to collect data sets from various sources across all the EU countries. In collaboration with the consortium partners, FOKUS will thus support member states and other European countries in disseminating open data sets at the EU level, checking and enhancing meta data quality and gaining insight into re-user interaction. With the Open Data Portal, the European Commission intends to unlock the untapped economic potential of public data that is estimated of possible gains exceeding 40 billion Euros per year. Its further objective is to improve the governance of countries and empower citizens, to address societal challenges and to accelerate scientific progress.

Press contact

Karolin Freiberger | Corporate Communications | Fraunhofer FOKUS

presse@fokus.fraunhofer.de

Phone +49 (0) 30 3463-7441 | Fax +49 (0) 30 3463-99-7386

Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee 31 | 10589 Berlin | <http://www.fokus.fraunhofer.de>



“The pan-European Data Portal is likely to be the world’s most ambitious Open Data project and it will be a milestone for the cross-border and cross-sector reuse of public datasets across Europe. We are very pleased to contribute our comprehensive technical and scientific Open Data expertise to this project”, said Dr. Matthias Flügge, director of the eGovernment Competence Center ELAN at Fraunhofer FOKUS.

PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, February 5, 2015

Page 2 | 3

Capgemini Consulting, the global strategy and transformation consulting arm of the Capgemini Group, will lead this three-year engagement and coordinating a number of partners and subcontractors. Apart from Fraunhofer FOKUS these are Sogeti, Intrasoftware International, the Open Data Institute, conterra, the University of Southampton and time.lex.

In the past Fraunhofer FOKUS has been responsible for the development and operation of several open data platforms. Besides GovData, the national German data portal, FOKUS has implemented open data portals for the cities of Berlin, Hamburg, Amsterdam as well as for the utility provider Vattenfall.

Prof. Dr. Ina Schieferdecker, director of Fraunhofer FOKUS, added: “Data is more and more perceived not only as an economic good but also as a common property. Added value in particular emerges by linking public datasets of various origins. FOKUS is a pioneer in the development of technical Open Data infrastructures and thus will support the EU in generating this added value.”

Press contact

Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communication Systems FOKUS

Corporate Communications

Karolin Freiberger

Phone: +49 (0)30 3463 7386

Email: presse@fokus.fraunhofer.de**About Fraunhofer FOKUS**

Fraunhofer FOKUS, based in Berlin, Germany, develops solutions for the communication infrastructure of the future. It has extensive expertise in open data



and data management and continuously expands its research into linked data and data analytics. The institute addresses important challenges in the society and the smart cities of the future, including access to information, economic and sustainable use of resources, smart mobility and a modern governmental administration. In its projects, Fraunhofer FOKUS establishes useful ties between industry, governmental administration and citizens.

Besides technical infrastructures, Fraunhofer FOKUS creates manifold practical concepts, applications and prototypes. In particular, Fraunhofer FOKUS is specialized in developing multi-domain networks and interoperable, user-centric solutions.

With 25 years of experience, FOKUS is one of the most important actors in the ICT research landscape both nationally and worldwide. As a member of important standardization bodies, the institute contributes to the definition of new standards in information and communication technologies. For more information visit <http://www.fokus.fraunhofer.de>

PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, February 5, 2015

Page 3 | 3

Press contact**Karolin Freiberger** | Corporate Communications | Fraunhofer FOKUS

presse@fokus.fraunhofer.de

Phone +49 (0) 30 3463-7441 | Fax +49 (0) 30 3463-99-7386

Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee 31 | 10589 Berlin | <http://www.fokus.fraunhofer.de>