HOMER

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

Memorandum of understanding for new stakeholders joining Homer Federation

L'Europe en Méditerranée
Europe in the Mediterranean

Projet cofinancé par le Fonds Européen de Développement Régional (FEDER)

Project cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Governments recognized to HOMER ("Harmonising Open Data in the Mediterranean through Better Access and Reuse of Public Sector Information) the benefits of making PSI open/reusable, as transparency, innovation and economic value across the Mediterranean, as a strategic economic sectors growth, by contributing to make the all area a competitive territory, able to match global competition and to ensure a sustainable growth and employment for the next generations: all principles that are in coherence with one of the key action of the Digital Agenda for Europe and the PSI Directive.

The Homer Federation is conceived as potentially open to future accession by other Partners - free to conduct their own Open Data initiative independently of the HOMER project- with the opportunity to aggregate their respective and complementary skills in order to maximize advantages and effects of a common federated index. The setting up of the Federation of partners' Open Data portals requires a common understanding and definition of technological, organizational and legal issues, such as an open licensing framework for publishing reusable dataset and the establishment of legal interoperability in line with the achievements of WP5; reason that why the Partners acknowledged the necessity to frame and precise the conditions of reuse and common share of metadata.

This agreement is accepted and signed by the stakeholders who wish to expose their catalogues of open data within the Homer Federation under the technological coordination of CSI Piemonte.

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1. PURPOSE

In this Memorandum of Understanding are defined the technological, organizational and legal conditions/ requirements to accept in order to enter in the Homer Federation.

HOMER (www.homerproject.eu) is an EU MED project with the result to create a federation of Open Data portals, aiming at sharing common data sets related to MED strategic domains (agriculture, energy, environment, culture, tourism) through the creation of a searchable federated index of meta data of all the Open Data Portals under the technical coordination and management of CSI Piemonte.

2. DURATION

The MOU shall be undersigned and shall enter into force from the day of its notification, and it will remain into effect for the duration of HOMER or to another date if specified. The deadline term of the project is established at 31/03/2015 and it has been expected the possibility to extend it.

3. THE HOMER FEDERATION AND ITS TECHNOLOGICAL COMPONENTS

"Federation" means the virtual system composed by a software able to create a common catalogue and an index supported by a search engine that using the translator component, allows multi language search of metadata; this is accomplished filtering on the field "tag" translated and indexing metadata within the Open Data Portals.

All technological components of the Federation are provided, managed and hosted – under the conditions set forth – by CSI Piemonte, and are:

- "Federated Index" - means the federated index file component - containing the complete list of metadata of all Open Data Portals connected to the Federation (each one identified with an unique id card) which describes all the data related to the 5 selected categories;
- "Federated Search engine" - means an indexing and searching engine component;
- "Federated Translator" - means the translator component - customized for search query, that allows combining all necessary vocabulary and thesaurus families using tags translated in datasets. Every tag in dataset is generated and translated using this component, and all terms in the thesaurus in all languages are considered as labels of the same concept;

To enter in the Homer Federation the stakeholders's Open Data Portal have to provide APIs or web services that will be used by the Federated Search Engine to extract via harvesting the common metadata set involved into Federation, and collect them into the Federated Index. In the case the stakeholders have not an open data portal can adopt the CSI Piemonte's platform solution or a solutions compatible (such as one of the other Homer Partner's models).

4. FEDERATION FULFILMENT

The stakeholder agrees to converge into a common set of policies and technical standards - as exposed in the Annex 1 - and pursues the goal of supporting the Homer Federation recognizing and appointing accordingly CSI- as the technical manager of the system.

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5. LICENSING OF MARKING DATA FOR REUSE PURPOSES

The stakeholder agrees that the data published on the Homer Federation:

shall be made available according to the rules on the reuse of data laid down by Directive 2013/37/EU shall provide the terms and conditions under which the data are made available will take all reasonable steps to release data with the less restrictive licences or under terms allowing maximum data re-use will share into the Federation only data and databases that:

a) are by virtue of the law available for reuse without a need for a licence (e.g. they are in the Public Domain or are exempt from Copyright Law);

b) are licensed under a standard or Open Government licence that falls under the Open Definition (http://opendefinition.org/okd/)

In the case (a) the manner of Attribution has to be clearly stated and requires ShareAlike as a condition for the re-use of data, this Open Data Portal shall either use a single ShareAlike Licence or use interoperable with each other ShareAlike licences.

6. RESPONSABILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

Each Open Data Portals remains solely responsible for its information data and databases published, must guarantee that the name of the Owner is indicated in the Metadata, and should do their best effort to require the Owner the maximum level of accuracy (completeness, update and precision) and possibly the indication of the data reliability level.

In no case the Federation will operate any sort of monitoring or check about the accuracy, reusability and general lawfulness of the data and databases made available and accessible through the Federation itself.

7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

In any case this MOU does not represent a property transfer in reference to any pre-existing work protected by intellectual property laws and/or property regulation (among others, single data, dataset, software – source code and binary code, layout) which remain property of each Open Data Portal or Data Owner.

CSI Piemonte will release said instruments in article 3 on the basis of an open source logic. The Federated Index will be licenced under CC0 and every upgrading and/or implementation and/or further development of the Federated Search Engine belongs and will belong to CSI Piemonte.

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Annex 1 – federation procedure

The present annex defines the technical preconditions and steps in order to develop the Federation. See the "Technical Guideline for Federation Development" document for more technical details (it is a deliverable for the Federation).

a) Preconditions

The input /actions required from each Open Data Portal are listed below:

- Availability of cross border tourism, energy, environment, cultural, agricultural data aggregated by the Federation
- Share the identification of the minimum common set of fields for the definition of a metadata structure involved in the federation, to build the metadata form of the Federated Index
- Share the definition of the Topics structure , that is a standard classification of the metadata form of the Federated Index
- Develope/ reuse an Open Data portal, or prepare a metadata form on line
- Setup an interface that enable portal and/or data interoperability with other systems: that is expose an API set or web services

b) Technical Fulfilments

Referring to the Preconditions:

Each Open Data Portal allows to expose the metadata form that are involved into the Federation.
This exposure can be realized using:

- An API set interface like CKAN able to return the list of metadata and metadata individual cards (dataset), that will be called to build the Federated Index

or

- Catalogue Services for the Web (CSW) protocol in the case of a geoportal

or

- Reusing the solution of Piedmont Region made of an indexing and searching open source engine, based on Apache Solr / Lucene.

or

- Web services able to return the list of metadata and metadata individual cards (dataset), that will be called to build the Federated Index, the interface is defined in the "Technical Guideline for Federation Development"

The metadata involved in the Federation will be the Federated Index.

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Referring to the Federation Development:

To enter in the HOMER Open Data Federation it is not necessary an each open data portal translates its metadata form in a same unique language (for example in English).

Into the federation work the partners will define together the common tags and topics (based on an European vocabulary) to be used in each metadata form involved.

With this scenario, each open data portal maintains this added tags and topics in its own language, and put a reference of the vocabulary defined of these in the metadata forms.

The indexing and searching scenarios are:

» Indexing Scenario

The federation Loader (FED-Loader) fulfils the task of creating the federated index (FED-Index), using the APIs or web services provided by each portal, which extract information that shall be stored in the federated index. The federation index ensures the possibility of performing multi-portal searching.

» Searching Scenario

Each portal is enabled to send a call to the federation APIs (FED-API), extracting information from the FED-Index and the answer is the exposure of the related data (arising from all Portals) on the calling portal.

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