

Open Data in France : an updated state of the art

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1 Content

While many countries already took the train of OpenData during the latest years, France took it slow for a while. The official organisation in charge of studying the subject was mainly focused on trying to sell the government's data. Similarly the official cartography administration keeps flirting with the limits of the openness rules drawn by the European institutions.

But the 2010s seem like decisive years for French OpenData. At first, the pioneer city of Rennes really opened its data by abandoning the non-commercial restriction from its license. Then, Paris launched its Open Data platform and chose to use the Open Data Base License which was collaboratively translated in French by professional and community jurists. Other cities and local authorities progressively start thinking seriously about it. And at last, the government made its move and installed the EtaLab team, in charge of pulling out a first instance of a data.gouv.fr by the end of the year.

Civil society isn't at rest. Two Open Data catalogues opened by the end of 2010 : the commercial Data Publica and the community-oriented NosDonnees.fr based on CKAN. Different medias start imitating the initiatives of the French DataJournalism leader, OWNI. In Nantes, the association LiberTIC coordinates citizens to push the representatives to start an OpenData programme which would respect the open principles. And in Dijon, Toulouse, Lille, citizens also start organising themselves for the same purposes.

Regards Citoyens promotes actively the principles of OpenData on the French territory since the opening of its first initiative to monitor parliamentary activity NosDeputes.fr. Our latest work include the opening and creation of exclusive datasets on democratic issues like elections or lobbying.

2 About the Author

Regards Citoyens is a citizen organization created in 2009 which promotes public open data in France. In addition to try to popularize Open Data principles in France, the members of this association create web projects using Open Data with Free and Open Source Software in order to provide tools for a better dialogue between citizens and representatives and a better understanding of the

french democratic institutions. Their most known initiative is a parliamentary monitoring website : NosDeputes.fr.