



GEodata Openness Initiative for Development and Economic Advancement in Romania

Joint Research Project under the Romanian-Swiss Research Programme

Project Number: IZERZO-142129



PROGRAMUL DE COOPERARE ELVEȚIANO-ROMÂN
SWISS-ROMANIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Open geodata survey results

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Issue / Revision: 1 / 0

Date: 01.07.2015



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GEOIDEA.RO Report		
GRANT AGREEMENT NR: IZERZO-142129	SUBJECT: Open geodata survey results	PROJECT COORDINATOR: ETH Zurich
ISSUE / REVISION: 1 / 0	INTERNAL REFERENCE : geoidea_deliverable_09	
ABSTRACT: A simple open data survey was designed to assess the community interest and level of knowledge about the open data concepts at the project start. This document summarizes the design survey and the feedback received from the users at GEOIDEA.RO kick-of meeting (February 7, 2013) when the survey was introduced to the user community.		
Project co-financed by a grant from Switzerland through the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union. Responsibility for the content of this report resides in the author or organisation that prepared it.		
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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the document

The GEOIDEA.RO project is based on the premise that publishing public geodata on the Internet, under an open license and in a reusable format can strengthen citizen engagement and yield innovative businesses, bringing substantial social and economic gains. Thus, the main objective of the project is to improve the scientific basis for the adoption of an open geodata model in Romania, on the technical and social side.

This document summarizes the design of the open data survey and the received feedback from the participants of the GEOIDEA.RO kick-of meeting (February 7, 2013).

1.2 Abbreviations

INSPIRE Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community

DESIGN OF THE SURVEY

The open data survey (Romanian language - See Annex I) was designed to assess the community interest and level of knowledge about the open data concepts at the project start. The survey was organized in four sections preceded by a short description of the GEOIDEA.RO project.

- Section 1: gathers general information regarding the user, including contact person, address, and type of organization.
- Section 2: gathers input on the present status of knowledge about the open data concept and possible model adoption within the organization.
- Section 3: gathers input on the feasibility of open data model adoption, the financial impact and the main barriers (e.g. financial, legal, mentality) .
- Section 4: inquiry the users on the possibility to provide relevant sample data for the future GEOIDEA.RO geoportal and ask them the agreement to join the GEOIDEA.RO user group.

RESULTS FROM SURVEY

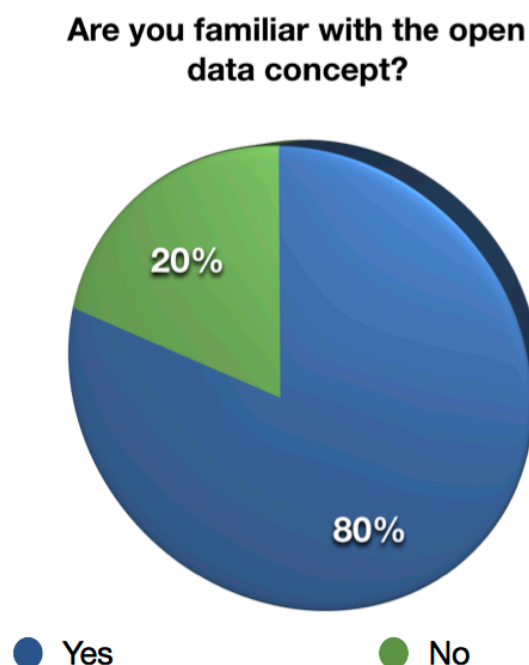
10 users, from 6 different institutions, filled in the questionnaire. The institutions are listed below.

- Romanian National Meteorological Administration;
- Military Topographic Directorate;
- National Institute of Hidrology and Water Management;
- Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest;
- S.C. Intergraph Computer Services;
- S.C. Apa Nova București.

1.3 Main feedback gathered from survey respondents

Question 4

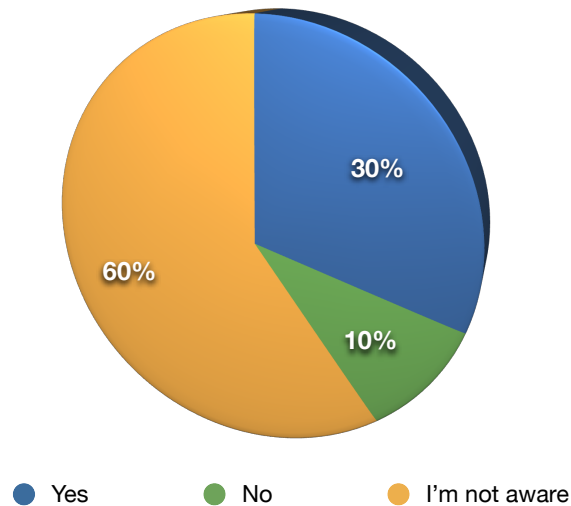
80% of the users are familiar with the open data concept. However, the question was answered after the workshop, when all the participants were already introduced into the subject by a number of presentations. A more appropriate question should have included a notice for the users to ignore the information received during the workshop and to answer based on their previous knowledge. To backup this conclusion, we mention that 20% of the answers from users not familiar with the open data concept were sent by people that did not attend the workshop.



Question 5

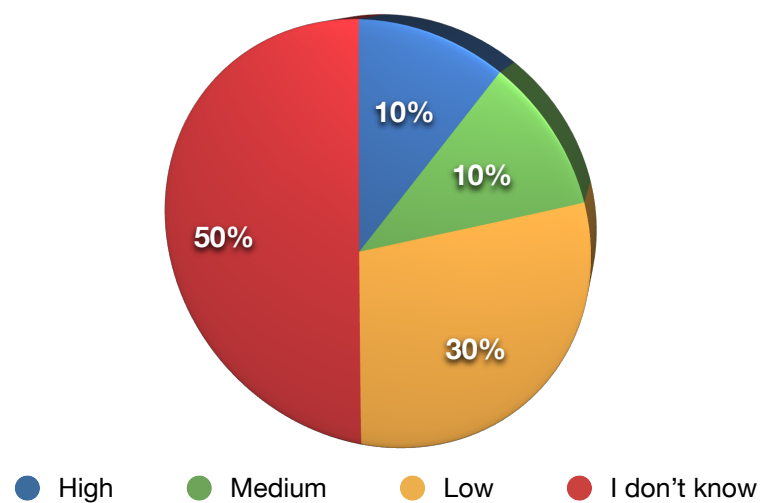
Only 30% of users recall open data related discussions within their institutions.

There have been discussions within your institution about the possibility of adopting a open data model?

**Question 6**

The weight of data sales from the total budget of the institution is not known by half of the users. From side-discussions, we understand that most of the institutions are not making any kind of economic analysis regarding the revenues obtained from data sales.

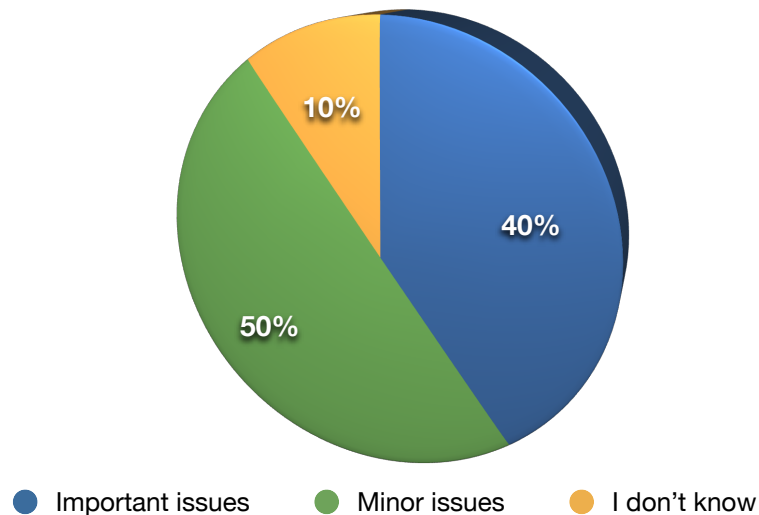
Weight of data sales from the total budget the institution



Question 7

Even in case of governmental financial assistance (e.g. the government compensate the institution for the annual percentage of the budget previously provided by data sales), 90% of the users foreseen minor or major problems in adopting or in realising their data as open data.

Foreseen issues in openly releasing public data (with government compensations)



Question 8

Answering to question regarding the main barriers for adopting an open data model?, the users anticipate problems of different nature:

- Technical problems: they do not always have the technical skills and appropriate software and hardware infrastructure to publish the data through the internet - as raw data or via web services;
- Limited resources: such as time, people, and money to publish the data;
- Mentality: such a drastic change in data policy is difficult to understand by many people involved in geodata production;
- Legal framework: the current legal framework is not clear and there is no coherent base for open data model adoption - INSPIRE directive was mentioned by several users in connection with a possible data model adoption;
- Worries that the data will be misused or not correctly understand.

Question 10 and 11

Additionally, most of the users mentioned not having any problem in providing sample data for the GEOIDEA.RO. However, some also included statements that such decision requires higher approvals from their institutions legal representatives.

All of the users are interested in following the GEOIDEA.RO project evolution and requested to be involved in the future activities.

ANNEX I OPEN DATA SURVEY

Annex I. Open data survey

Informații generale despre chestionar:

Proiectul GEOIDEA.RO (GEodata Openness Initiative for Development and Economic Advancement in Romania) este un proiect bilateral Elveția-România de cercetare științifică câștigat de către Centrul de Cercetare Ingineria Apelor Subterane - Universitatea Tehnică de Construcții București (CCIAS - UTCB) în parteneriat cu Institutul de Cartografie și Geoinformatică (IKG) - Universitatea Politehnică din Zurich (ETH Zurich). Scopul principal al acestui proiect este să demonstreze că publicarea online a datelor geografice produse de către autoritățile publice sub o licență liberă și într-un format reutilizabil poate întări implicarea cetățenilor în viața socială și deschide noi oportunități de creștere economică. Chestionarul face parte din instrumentele cu care membrii consorțiului GEOIDEA.RO încearcă să identifice nivelul înțelegerii acestor concepte în România și să înțeleagă nevoile potențialilor utilizatori finali.

1. Numele organizației

2. Tipul organizației

Autoritate națională	☐
Autoritate regională	☐
Companie privată	☐
Instituție de educație și/sau cercetare	☐
Alta	☐

3. Persona de contact (Nume, poziție, e-mail)

4. Sunteți familiarizat cu conceptul de open data?

☐ Da	☐ Nu
-----------------------------	-----------------------------

5. Au existat în cadrul instituției dumneavoastră discuții cu privire la posibilitatea adoptării unui model deschis de distribuție a datelor?

☐ Da	☐ Nu	☐ Nu cunosc
-----------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------------

6. Precizați ponderea pe care suma obținută pe parcursul unui an din vânzarea datelor o are asupra bugetului total al instituției dumneavoastră?

☐ Mare	☐ Medie	☐ Minoră	☐ Nu cunosc
-------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------------

7. Vedeți vreo problemă în publicarea liberă a datelor în condițiile în care sumele obținute din vânzarea acestora v-ar fi alocate direct de la bugetul de stat?

☐ Mare	☐ Medie	☐ Minoră	☐ Nu cunosc
-------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------------

8. Care credeți că ar fi principalele bariere în adoptarea modelului open data în instituția dumneavoastră? (Ex: financiare, tehnice, legislative, mentalitate)

9. Considerați utilă organizarea în cadrul instituției dumneavoastră a unor sesiuni de informare cu privire la conceptul open data și mijloacele practice prin care datele pot fi publicate liber?

☐ Da	☐ Nu
-----------------------------	-----------------------------

10. Sunteți dispuși să contribuiți cu un set de date test pentru geoportalul GEOIDEA.RO?

☐ Da	☐ Nu
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11. Doriți să faceți parte din grupul de utilizatori finali GEOIDEA.RO și să fiți informați cu privire la dezvoltarea viitoare a proiectului?

☐ Da	☐ Nu
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12. Informații suplimentare pe care doriți să le transmiteți membrilor consorțiului GEOIDEA.RO.