Madrid, 1 de julio de 2024

SEGUNDO EJERCICIO -

PARTE B

(ASPIRANTES FORMA DE ACCESO LETRA A, G Y L) -

INGLÉS -

High-value datasets

Certain data produced by the public sector are particularly interesting for creators of value-added services and applications. For example, the re-use of datasets such as mobility or geolocalisation of buildings can open business opportunities for the logistics or transport sectors, as well as improve the efficiency of public service delivery, for example by understanding traffic flows to make transport more efficient.

Datasets such as meteorological observation data, radar data, air quality and soil contamination and noise level data can also support research and digital innovation as well as better-informed policymaking, especially in the fight against climate change and its impacts; this has a positive impact on the quality of life.

Research and experience have shown that for public sector information to have a positive impact on the economy, public data should be available by default as widely as possible. However, the persistence of technical, legal and financial barriers lead to a situation in which public sector information in Europe is not used enough, despite the fact that EU policy and legislation has been in place for almost 20 years and sizeable investments have been made at the national level. The Open Data Directive strengthens the existing rules on formats, enabling diverse re-use scenarios, including dynamic data provided in real-time. The Directive addresses exclusive practices restricting the availability of public sector data beyond explicit exclusive arrangements. The new rules let stricter limits to charging, removing prohibitive costs as barrier to re-use.

To remove these remaining obstacles, the Open Data Directive obliged the European Commission to adopt an Implementing Regulation specifying concrete HVDs. Public sector organisations will have to make those HVDs available free of charge, in machine-readable format, via Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and, where relevant, as a bulk download.

The Open Data Directive defines the HVDs as “documents held by a public sector body, the re-use of which is associated with important benefits for society, the environment and the economy”. HVDs will be re-usable for any purpose (as is the case for any open data).

What kinds of data are HVDs?

The Open Data Directive sets out six categories of HVDs: geospatial, Earth observation and environment, meteorological, statistics, companies and company ownership, and mobility.

In principle, the list of high-value datasets does not refer to personal data. However, should certain datasets be considered personal data in Member States or if Member States choose to extend the list to personal data, compliance with GDPR needs to be ensured.

The Open Data Directive allows the Commission to extend this initial thematic range via a Delegated Act if necessary to reflect technological and market developments.

What are the impacts on SMEs and competitiveness?

HVDs were designed for the benefit of SMEs and start-ups, who often remain shut out from the market as they do not have sufficient human and financial resources to acquire and enhance the quality of public sector data.

The increased supply of data will boost entrepreneurship and result in the creation of new companies. In addition, HVDs can become an important enabler for start-ups to validate their business cases and attract investors.

Open data can also empower SMEs, for which data software solutions using public sector data may become their main product or service.

Finally, the free availability of data will help rebalance the position of SMEs in relation to Big Tech companies, for whom the price of data acquisition is not a significant barrier.