Publishable summary

Project COMSODE (Components Supporting the Open Data Exploitation) is an SME-driven RTD project aimed at progressing the capabilities in the Open Data re-use field in Europe. The concept is an answer to barriers still present in this young area:

- data published by various open data catalogues are poorly integrated;
- quality assessment and cleansing are seldom addressed;
- available solutions mostly do not cover whole publishing process and are not accompanied by methodology;
- data consumers have to integrate the data before they can use them which increases significantly the costs of open data consumption and hinder open data usage and uptake.

COMSODE has the following main objectives to eliminate these barriers:

1. To create a publication platform called Open Data Node (ODN) – an Open source platform for open data publication, interoperability and re-use that builds on results of previous research and development in the linked data field. Its mission is to bring results from research/experimental environment into real world conditions for people, SMEs and other organizations to use and re-use and to create powerful scalable toolbox including search feature.

![Picture 1: Open Data Node](image)

2. To create a methodology framework for easy use of technology in operating conditions of typical public bodies and rigorously tested for traceability, usability and sustainability in a public body environment. This is going to be verified in three pilot implementations during the project. End user-communities will be involved EU-wide to set a use case framework within which the requirements of heterogeneous organisations can be clearly understood. Provided feedback will be processed into the final methodology and recommendations for re-use applications.

These two results enable new applications to emerge – some of them will be directly created in the project by consortium members (search service by SPINQUE) or by associated bodies (Semantic Web Company, Austria). The project cooperates with active organizations and initiatives in the EU and internationally (as consortium members were personally involved in many of them: e.g. LOD2, OGP, etc.)

It is a project ambition to lay the foundations for a data integration platform based on Open Data allowing the re-use of data not only between public bodies and end-users but also among public bodies themselves: Public bodies can exchange information by using the same infrastructure and
tools as end-users which will decrease costs of exchanging the data and in most cases also enhance the quality and speed-up of the exchange.

What is even more important, OpenData APIs can be used by integration projects between public bodies, again saving costs and enhancing the quality of the resulting solution. This in turn strengthens OpenData publishing, with end-users benefiting again – a self-reinforcing loop.

Another outcomes of the project are the methodologies for institutions, SMEs and users of Open Data and framework for easy use of technology in operating conditions of typical public bodies. For the valuable outcome, the framework will be rigorously tested for traceability, usability and sustainability in various environments and the technical solution will be piloted by associated partners of the project in operating conditions across the EU.

The highlights of the project so far could be summarized by very important outputs:

- Firstly, the datasets are ready further use – a definition for the project purposes was formulated, the criteria for selection of datasets for the COMSODE project publication and criteria for selecting those datasets that will be published as Linked Open Data have been established.
  - All partners (mainly UNIMIB, CUNI and EEA) participated in setting up the definition of key general attributes that need to be collected for each of 166 datasets that were chosen to be published as Open Data within the COMSODE project (while some of them will be published as Linked Open Data). In the first year of the project, the first 42 Linked Open Data datasets have been successfully published at http://data.comsode.eu/.
  - Overall, more than 350 candidate datasets had been collected to the initial list from various organizations together with their detailed attributes that were necessary for their evaluation in the second half of the first year of the COMSODE project. Candidate datasets spanned from different countries and from various kinds of publishers (small vs. large, local vs. national vs. global, public vs. private) and were of diverse sizes and domains. For the datasets collecting purposes, the supportive website www.youropendata.eu had been established.

- Furthermore, a tool for converting datasets to Linked Data representation – ODCS – that had been developed by Charles University (Prague, CZ) was accepted and modified by the COMSODE consortium and became a part of the ODN architecture. (This tool will be further extended by the COMSODE consortium and involved subsequently as a component to the Open Data Node platform).
  - Similarly, an assessment of existing tools and environments has been conducted by the EEA Company and Charles University. In particular, collecting of information about existing cataloguing, publication tools and collecting information about existing environments within governmental organizations took place.

- Likewise, COMSODE’s ODN and methodologies are being used as a base for Slovak national project ‘eDemokracia’. This project will build national platform for open data publishing in Slovakia and also will define necessary methodologies. Moreover COMSODE’s ODN and methodologies will be used within the Regione Lombardia project SPAC3. The project will build a new generation of eGovernment platform for providing eGovernment services and it will be tested by the municipality of Bergamo.
  - The expected methodologies were produced in first complete version: methodologies for deployment and use of the publication platform (ODN) and other tools for data publishers allowing them to publish data quickly, with high quality and usable by 3rd parties.

- Consortium partners have been very collaborative and active in the development of the project activities what is proven by successful completion and submission of all deliverables planned for this period in the project Description of work.

- Among the main results of the project in the period 1 belongs Cooperation with various national and local institutions was maintained and was further extended into wider
discussions about the partners’ particular datasets that were later included into the initial list of dataset candidates.

- Project consortium partners have cooperated in the Czech Republic with the Czech Telecommunication Office, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority and Ministry of Finance that are willing to publish their data as Open Data within the COMSODE project. Some of partners confirmed that they want to run their own Open Data Node instance and publish their datasets on their own in the coming months using the COMSODE instance ODN.

Moreover, **COMSODE user engagement strategy** had been developed in the first year of the project through the cooperation with the project partners from the COMSODE EU-wide User Board. The User Board associates currently **14 institutions from 10 different EU countries**, representing local authorities, governmental bodies, SME companies, as well as NGOs, academia and European Open Data related projects.

- End user communities have been involved to set a Use case framework for clean understanding of the heterogeneous organizations requirements. Two plenary User Board meetings were organized (in accordance with the initial plan of project), first one in January 2014 in Prague and the second one in June 2014 in Bratislava.

- Besides that, cooperation with related Open Data projects and initiatives (such as DaPaaS, Open Data Monitor, Open Cube, Linda project, Melodies, EUcases, Smart Open Data, ePSI platform, Open Data Support, etc.) have been established. Dissemination activities have been executed by all project partners at European and national conferences, exhibitions and workshops.

*Picture 2: User Board meeting 1, Prague January 2014*
Project activities on public websites:

- [www.comsode.eu](http://www.comsode.eu)
- [www.youropendata.eu](http://www.youropendata.eu)
- [http://data.comsode.eu/](http://data.comsode.eu/)