

# Civic Activities & Opening Data

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# Overview

- Tasks of organizations
- What do they do?
- Examples
- Liberating Data
- Examples

# Organizations & Officials

- Civic Lobbying
  - Administrations
  - Politicians
- Counseling: Sharing expertise (i.e. in parliamentary committees, university studies)
- Collecting data and knowledge on availability and openness of data
- Building broader, international networks (i.e. Open Government Partnership: [opengovpartnership.org](http://opengovpartnership.org))

# Organizations & Citizens

- Community Building: Serving as a hub for activists, coders ...
- Events: Conferences, Hackdays, Meetups
- Awareness: Pointing out the impact of openness and transparency to fellow citizens
- Teaching (Data Literacy):
  - Offering own projects using open data
  - Online and offline courses on processing and visualizing data

# Civic Organizations + Data

- Making government more transparent
  - Government spending
  - Intertwinedness, lobbyists
- Making themselves more transparent
  - Spending
  - Received funding

# US Examples

- Sunlight Foundation: [sunlightfoundation.com](http://sunlightfoundation.com)
- Electronic Frontier Foundation: [eff.org/issues/transparency](http://eff.org/issues/transparency)
- Code for America: [codeforamerica.org](http://codeforamerica.org)
- Open Secrets: [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org)
- Pro Publica: [propublica.org](http://propublica.org)

# UK Examples

- My Society: [mysociety.org](https://mysociety.org)
  - [whatdotheyknow.com](https://whatdotheyknow.com)
  - [theyworkforyou.com](https://theyworkforyou.com)
- Open Knowledge Foundation
  - [okfn.org](https://okfn.org)
  - [schoolofdata.org](https://schoolofdata.org)
- Access Info (UK/Spain): [access-info.org](https://access-info.org)

# German Examples

- OKF Deutschland: [okfn.de](http://okfn.de)
  - Code for Germany: [codefor.de](http://codefor.de)
  - Coding da Vinci: [codingdavinci.de](http://codingdavinci.de)
  - Jugend hackt: [jugendhackt.de](http://jugendhackt.de)
  - Open Ruhr: [openruhr.de](http://openruhr.de)
- Digitale Gesellschaft: [digitalegesellschaft.de](http://digitalegesellschaft.de)
- Gov 2.0 Netzwerk: [gov20.de](http://gov20.de)
- Transparency Deutschland: [transparency.de](http://transparency.de)



# Liberating Data

## Who is interested?

- Some Politicians
- Some Administrations
- Civic Society Groups
- Developers
- Some Companies

## Who not?

- Some Politicians
- Some Administrations
- Some Companies

# How to Liberate Data

## Available Data

- Ask administrations to provide data in an open format
- Make existing PDFs machine-readable
- Request data via Freedom of Information
- Write letters to politicians, sign petitions
- Organize Hackdays

# How to Liberate Data II

## Unavailable Data

- Get in touch with administrations
- Use “Request a dataset” feature on portals
- Show good examples using data
- Organize Hackdays
- Scrape data off existing websites
  - Scrapperwiki: [scrapperwiki.com](http://scrapperwiki.com)
  - NoodleJS: [noodlejs.com](http://noodlejs.com)

# Opening Own Data

- Make your data available
- Choose a proper license
  - Public Domain
  - Open Database License (Share-alike)
- Technical Openness
  - File Format
  - Operating Systems

[opendatacommons.org/guide](https://opendatacommons.org/guide)

[opendatahandbook.org/en](https://opendatahandbook.org/en)

# Opened Data: Examples

- Maphub: [maphub.github.io](https://maphub.github.io)
- Michael Kreil, Sebastian Vollnhals, Jens Ohlig - Datenbefreiung selbst gemacht: [youtube.com/watch?v=vWerZQFj4Xc](https://youtube.com/watch?v=vWerZQFj4Xc)
- WikiData - Structured Data for Wikipedia: [wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Introduction](https://wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Introduction)
- Offenes Köln: [offeneskoeln.de](https://offeneskoeln.de)
- Frankfurt Gestalten: [frankfurt-gestalten.de](https://frankfurt-gestalten.de)

# Further Reading

- Governance Lab (NYU) on Open Data and Civil Society:  
[thegovlab.org/open-data-and-civil-society](http://thegovlab.org/open-data-and-civil-society)
- What's data ever done for us? On using data:  
[civilsociety.co.uk/it/blogs/content/14939/whats\\_data\\_ever\\_done\\_for\\_us](http://civilsociety.co.uk/it/blogs/content/14939/whats_data_ever_done_for_us)
- Open Data Platforms: A Tool to Revolutionise Governance (international perspective):  
[ngopulse.org/article/open-data-platforms-tool-revolutionise-governance](http://ngopulse.org/article/open-data-platforms-tool-revolutionise-governance)
- Leonhard Dobusch - Digitale Zivilgesellschaft in Deutschland: Stand und Perspektiven 2014:  
[econstor.eu/dspace/bitstream/10419/95863/1/782374581.pdf](http://econstor.eu/dspace/bitstream/10419/95863/1/782374581.pdf)

# Further Information

- Random Hacks of Kindness: [rhok.org](http://rhok.org)
- DataKind - using data for good causes: [datakind.org](http://datakind.org)
- Data Points and Data Agents (on civil society actors):  
[marketsforgood.org/data-points-and-data-agents](http://marketsforgood.org/data-points-and-data-agents)
- Nonprofits using Data:  
[netsquared.org/blog/data-digest-9-big-datas-global-nervous-system-nonprofits-using-data-and-more#.Ucl8oG1dzWI](http://netsquared.org/blog/data-digest-9-big-datas-global-nervous-system-nonprofits-using-data-and-more#.Ucl8oG1dzWI)
- Initiative Transparente Zivilgesellschaft:  
[transparency.de/Initiative-Transparente-Zivilg.1612.0.html](http://transparency.de/Initiative-Transparente-Zivilg.1612.0.html)