

PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION OPENNESS OR UNIVERSALITY

Maciej Groń

Director of Information Society Department
Ministry of Administration and Digitisation, Poland

PRESENTATION PLAN

1. Access to public information (PI) in Poland
2. Sharing practice in Poland
3. Practical problems of access to PI – Polish experiences
4. Amendment to the Act on Access to PI – public consultations
5. Public Sector Information (PSI) re-use
6. Central repository of public information (CRPI)
7. Conclusions

ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION IN POLAND

- **Right to PI – a personal right** based on the principle of transparency from the Constitution;
- Implementation of this right - Act on Access to Public Information;
- Catalogue of PI includes e.g.: drafts of normative acts, and action plans; information about public entities, properties, public data...;

SHARING PRACTICE IN POLAND

- Definition of PI - **any information about public affairs, regardless of the manner it is stored;**
- **Broad interpretation** of PI by administrative courts and consequences;
- **Restrictions** on access to PI - confidential information protected by law, secrets of entrepreneurs and privacy of the individual (but not public person).

SHARING PRACTICE IN POLAND (+)

Ways to access PI:

1. Public Information Bulletins,
2. publishing or posting information in public places,
3. upon request,
4. possibility to participate in meetings and obtain minutes,
5. Central Repository of Public Information.

PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF ACCESS TO PI – POLISH EXPERIENCES

- Broad understanding of PI;
- Specific types of PI have **diverse access principles and procedures** – problem to determine which to apply in a given case;
- Lack of pro-active provision of PI – incomplete or no answers, insufficient use of Public Information Bulletins.

AMENDMENT TO THE ACT ON ACCESS TO PI – PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

- **A series of meetings** with representatives of public administration, academia, experts, civil society organisations – so called ‘Round Tables’. Areas to address: definition, access modes and restrictions, abuse of the right to access, re-use;
- **Code of Consultation** – principles governing public consultations carried out by the Ministry;
- **Keeping touch** between public administration and local governments in order to build an open state. Consult IT projects at an early stage.

PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION RE-USE

- **Public entities are required to provide information that can be re-used** for commercial or non-commercial purpose, in machine readable formats. Re-use is free in principle;
- In December 2011, the EC presented open data package to allow better use of the potential of public sector information resources. In June 2013, Directive was amended as a result;
- Key changes include: **extending the scope** of the Directive to libraries, museums and archives; obligation to share data in commonly used, machine-readable formats.

CENTRAL REPOSITORY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (CRPI)

- **A new mode of access and re-use of PI** was added to our law – so called Central Repository of Public Information.
- **Faster and more efficient** tool to share public information;
- CRPI is planned to be a point of access to public information including, i.a.: demographic data, election results, energy production and consumption, pollution, and data from many other public entities;

CENTRAL REPOSITORY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (CRPI) (+)

- CRPI will be fully searchable, allow creating a variety of cross-compilations of public information on-line, etc.;
- CRPI will systematically upgraded to include additional functionality and information resources. The aim is to integrate as many information resources as possible;
- Similar tools already exist in other countries e.g. data portals in the UK, US and France.

CONCLUSIONS

- PSI plays a crucial role in the modern information society;
- ICT becomes an integral part of contemporary life and citizens want to contact public authorities electronically and access high-quality PI;
- Big challenge but also big opportunity since PI can be used in innovative applications and services – row data!!!
- Facilitating both access and re-use creates new possibilities for further development of interactions between government and citizens.

THANK YOU

maciej.gron@mac.gov.pl