

Standardisation is important to interoperability of information systems. With this study we evaluate the availability, accessibility and re-use of electoral information in 6 European countries. We assess whether electoral information can be standardised and provided as 'open data' such that journalists, media organisations and companies can re-use the information more easily.

Classification

What type of organisation do you represent?

- A government agency
- A independent electoral committee
- An office of an elected official
- A non-profit organisation
- A journalism or media organisation
- Other (Please specify)

What type of election is your organisation involved in?

- Presidential elections
- National elections
- Regional elections
- Local elections
- Special elections
- Other (please specify)

(Responsibility) Who is responsible for providing electoral information to the public?

- A national government agency
- An independent national electoral committee
- An independent local, regional or presidential electoral committee
- A local or regional government agency
- An office of an elected official
- Not applicable
- Other (Please specify)

Information Types

(Types) What kinds of electoral information?

- Polling stations (locations, opening hours)
- Election type (National, Presidential, Local)
- Election results (casted votes, counted votes, turnout, results)
- Candidates (Names, Parties, Website, Ballot order, Photo)
- Campaign Financing (Donors, Amounts)
- Electoral districts (Location, Boundaries, # of voters)
- Voter registration (Process,
- Electoral Complaints, Disputes and Resolution
- Electoral Violence (Location, Type)
- Election Management Body and Administration (Responsible representative, contact information)

Accessibility and Re-use

(Formats) In what format is electoral information available?

A website

A downloadable document (PDF, Word)

A downloadable spreadsheet (CSV, Excel)

A downloadable structured data file (XML, JSON)

An application programming interface

An application programming interface with meta-information (linked data)

(Licence) How is your electoral information licensed?

the information cannot be re-used without a license

the information is available for non-commercial use (Creative Commons Non Commercial)

the information is available as 'open data' (Creative Commons Zero, Open Data Commons)

Unknown

(Legal restrictions) Are there legal restrictions to re-use of electoral information?

the information may not be re-used

the information may only be re-used after formal permission is granted

the information may be re-used but restrictions apply

the information may be re-used without restrictions

Unknown

(Financial restrictions) Are there financial restrictions to re-use of electoral information?

the information may be re-used for a commercial

the information may be re-used for the cost of creation

the information may be re-used for free for non-commercial purposes

the information may be re-used free of cost

Unknown

(Recency) How often is electoral information updated during an election (including election results)?

Every second (real time)

Every hour

Every day

Every week

Every month

Longer

Unknown

(Aggregation) What level of aggregation is electoral information provided?

Country level

Regional level

Municipality level

Voting District level

Polling Station level

Street level

Unknown

Attitudes

Please read the following statements and indicate how far you agree or disagree with them.

Voters have sufficient access to electoral information to make an informed choice
The re-use of electoral information will cause misinterpretation and abuse
The release of electoral information is important because governments are not good at informing the public
The release of electoral information is important as a matter of principle
All electoral information should be provided to the public as open data
Electoral information should only be provided as open data if there is a clear demand for it
Civil society organisations could develop innovative applications when election information is released as open data
Journalists could improve reporting when election information is released as open data

Standards

(Familiarity) Are you familiar with the following standards for publishing electoral information? (Yes - No)

Voting Information Project
Election Markup Language
Open Civic Data (OCD)

(Use) Do you currently use a standard for publishing electoral information?

Voting Information Project
Election Markup Language
Open Civic Data
Other (Please specify)

(Barriers) What factors could limit adoption of an electoral information standard in the elections you are involved in?

(Strongly Agree - Strongly Disagree)

Lack of understanding of the importance of electoral information standards
Lack of involvement of stakeholders in the standard setting process
Lack of financial resources for electoral information standard
Lack of knowledge and expertise of electoral information standards
Lack of implementation guidelines of electoral information standards
Lack of political support for electoral information standards
Lack of availability of structured electoral information
Lack of demand for electoral information standards

(Participants) If a standard for electoral information were to be developed, what types of organisations should participate in developing it?

Government agencies & organisations
Journalism & media organisations
Non-profits & NGO's
Technologists and programmers
Companies
Standards organisations

Other (Please specify)