"A strategy of open data for urban development. Experiences of Helsinki Region Infoshare www.hri.fi"

Asta Manninen
City of Helsinki Urban Facts
Helsinki, Finland
asta.manninen@hel.fi

http://www.hri.fi/en/
http://www.hri.fi/2years/

The initiative of open data in the Helsinki region was created in 2009 after the four cities (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen) agreed on the vision for regional data 2020. This vision was realized by launching the Helsinki Region Infoshare (HRI) project to promote the openness of information, secure comparative and interoperable data on the Helsinki Region. The vision was strongly supported by the city leadership. The open data has also been one of the main approaches to enhance the open government in Helsinki, i.e. Open Helsinki.

The executive board of the HRI open data service is composed of the mayors of the four cities and the steering group is composed of the funding parties as well as the City of Helsinki Urban Facts and Forum Virium Helsinki http://www.forumvirium.fi/. City of Helsinki Urban Facts is responsible for the HRI on operational level and is in charge of the clearing house function and activities. Forum Virium Helsinki, specialized in digital services, has played a key role in the development work. HRI has been funded by the four cities and co-funded by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra and the Finnish Ministry of Finance.

Nowadays the HRI service www.hri.fi provides over 1000 datasets and the actions of opening data are part of ordinary operations in the four cities. There are still numerous data sets to be unlocked. A lot of applications have been developed on the basis of the open data. In the applications gallery of the HRI-service we present a good one hundred applications and new applications are continuously added. A common feature of the applications is that they save time, effort, money and environment and contributes to the open city in many ways. Open data supports the implementation of the City Strategy and the urban development in many ways, see pictures 1-4 below. Further examples are to be found in city planning, see e.g. http://www.yleiskaava.fi/en/2013/city-plan-map-survey/. The survey attracted some 4,700 respondents, who marked approximately 33,000 locations in total on the map. Residential development was the most popular category with some 8,900 locations indicated on the map.
About the connection between open data and city development, please see the following pictures:

**Why open data?**

- Government efficiency, improved administration
- Business and innovation, new jobs, new growth
- Education and research
- Transparency and democracy, citizen engagement
- Public
- Licensed
- Machine-readable
- Easily accessible and to no cost

[www.hri.fi](http://www.hri.fi)

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**The Open City – benefits of an open digital environment**

Citizens’ participation

- Availability of data and information
- Private enterprises and public bodies

Availability of IT-tools

Digitalisation and new technology

Trust and open government


[http://dev.hel.fi](http://dev.hel.fi)

Welcome to Helsinki Developer Portal!
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