



Open Knowledge Foundation Blog

Home Writings

← *Open Commons Region Linz*

Dear Internet, we need better image archives →

AsktheEU.org: New one-stop portal makes requests for EU documents easy

Posted on September 30, 2011 by theodora

The following post is a press release from [AsktheEU](#) and [Access Info](#).



On 28 September 2011, the 9th International Right to Know Day, pro-transparency human rights group [Access Info Europe](#) unveiled the [AsktheEU.org](#) web portal by which the public can ask for information from EU bodies.

AsktheEU.org is designed to radically simplify the process by which the public puts requests to European Union bodies: an email is sent from the website to the relevant EU body. All requests sent via AsktheEU.org and the responses are instantly made public. Requesters will have the opportunity to “me too” a request so that more than one person receives the answer, easing the workload on EU officials.

Other features of the site include allowing requesters to rate responses for quality and comprehensiveness, permitting other users to comment on answers. If requesters are dissatisfied, the site helps them file appeals (“confirmatory applications”) and gives guidance on how to complain to the European Ombudsman or to go to the European Court of Justice.

Recent Posts

[Tracking the Sustainability of Open Government Data](#)

[Introducing OpenData.cz – open data initiative from Czech Republic](#)

[Open Government Data Camp 2011 – Australian Satellite Event](#)

[Keynoting at OGD Camp 2011 ... Andrew Stott!](#)

[Government Linked Data Workshops at OGD Camp 2011](#)

Recent Comments

[Aubrey](#) on [Dear Internet, we need better image archives](#)

[Karen Holland](#) on [Copyright not applicable to geodata?](#)

Launching AsktheEU.org portal, Access Info Europe raised the concern that 10 years after the EU's access to documents rules were adopted in 2001 there are still only a very small number of requests each year: around 12,000 in a region of 500 million people, meaning that at most 0.0024% of Europeans are exercising this right.



There are still significant problems with EU transparency in practice: around one third of the complaints made to the European Ombudsman concern problems accessing EU documents.

“The AsktheEU.org portal will redress the democratic deficit in Europe whereby decisions are made far from citizens and yet only a small clique of lobbyists, academics and NGOs can master the current decentralised and complex system for filing requests,” commented Helen Darbishire, Executive Director of Access Info Europe.

“We aim to make the right to know about what the EU is doing a real right for all Europe’s citizens and residents. AsktheEU.org will reduce the burden on EU officials who will not have to answer the same request repeatedly,” added Darbishire.

With use, AsktheEU.org will generate statistics on the time EU bodies take to respond to requests, the exceptions applied, and the rate of administrative silence, for example. In this way, a clearer picture will emerge of what improvements need to be made in order to guarantee greater transparency of the EU.

AsktheEU.org runs on the [Alaveteli](#) software which underpins the UK’s successful [WhatDoTheyKnow.com](#) built by the NGO [mySociety](#); it is also inspired by Germany’s [FragdenStaat.de](#), from the Open Knowledge Foundation, and similar sites in countries ranging from Kosova ([InformataZyrtare.org](#)) and Chile ([AccesoInteligente.org](#)). Access Info Europe and partners are currently preparing [TuDerechoaSaber.es](#) in Spain and a similar website in France.

For more information – in English, French or Spanish – please contact:


Pam Bartlett Quintanilla, Researcher, Access Info Europe: [pam\[at\]access-info\[dot\]org](mailto:pam[at]access-info[dot]org)

Scott Chamberlain on Dear Internet, we need better image archives

theodora on Keynoting at OGD Camp 2011 ... David Eaves!

Kaitlin on Keynoting at OGD Camp 2011 ... David Eaves!

Archives

Select Month 

Categories

Annotator

Bibliographic

Bibliographica

Board

Business

Campaigning

Chapters

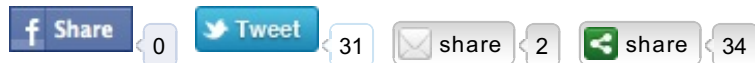
CKAN

COMMUNIA

Coverage

Data Journalism

Helen Darbshire, Executive Director, Access Info Europe: helen[at]access-info[dot]org



Related posts:

1. [Notes from EU meeting on “pan-European open data portal”](#) A report from an EU meeting on the “goals and requirements for a pan-European data portal” is now online: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/content-knowledge/docs/report-ws-pan-eu-dat-porta_en.pdf The meeting took place in Luxembourg last month. Participants included Nigel Shadbolt, one of four members of the UK Government’s...
2. [FragDenStaat.de: OKF Deutschland launches new German FOI portal](#) The following post is from Friedrich Lindenberg and Stefan Wehrmeyer from OKF Deutschland. Today the Open Knowledge Foundation Deutschland is launching a new Freedom of Information (FOI) portal called “Frag den Staat”. The new site enables citizens, journalists and researchers...
3. [Open Public Procurements Portal of Slovakia](#) The following guest post is from Stefan Urbanek, an independent consultant, analyst, and member of the Open Knowledge Foundation’s Working Group on Open Government Data. You can meet him in person at Open Government Data Camp in London this November!...

This entry was posted in [Featured Project](#), [News](#), [Open Government Data](#), [WG EU Open Data](#), [WG Open Government Data](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

← [Open Commons Region Linz](#)

[Dear Internet, we need better image archives](#) →

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Name *

Email *

- [datapkg](#)
- [Essays](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Exemplars](#)
- [External](#)
- [Featured Project](#)
- [Free Culture](#)
- [Government](#)
- [Guest post](#)
- [Hackday / Code Sprint](#)
- [Ideas](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [KForge](#)
- [Legal](#)
- [LOD2](#)
- [Meetups](#)
- [Metadata](#)
- [Musings](#)
- [News](#)
- [Newsletter](#)

Website



CAPTCHA Code *

Comment

You may use these HTML tags and attributes: <abbr title=""> <acronym title="">
 <blockquote cite=""> <cite> <code> <del datetime=""> <i> <q cite=""> <strike>

Post Comment

- OGDCamp
- OKCon
- OKF
- OKF Austria
- OKF Germany
- OKF Projects
- OKScotland
- Open Access
- Open Content
- Open Data
- Open Data Commons
- Open Data Manual
- Open Definition
- Open Economics
- Open Geodata
- Open Government Data
- Open Knowledge
- Open Knowledge Definition
- Open Science
- Open Service
- Open Shakespeare

Open Spending

Open Standards

Open Textbooks

Open/Closed

Policy

Press Releases

Process

Public Domain

Public Domain Works

Releases

Spending Stories

Sprint / Hackday

Talks

Technical

Texts

Uncategorized

Video

visualization

Volunteer Opportunities

Weaving History

WG Archaeology

[WG Cultural Heritage](#)

[WG Development](#)

[WG Economics](#)

[WG EU Open Data](#)

[WG Humanities](#)

[WG Linguistics](#)

[WG Open Bibliographic Data](#)

[WG Open Data in Science](#)

[WG Open Geospatial Data](#)

[WG Open Government Data](#)

[WG Open Licensing](#)

[WG Public Domain](#)

[WG Visualisation](#)

[Where Does My Money Go](#)

[Working Groups](#)

[Workshop](#)

Meta

[Register](#)

[Log in](#)

[Entries RSS](#)

[Comments RSS](#)

[WordPress.org](#)

Search

The content of this site is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License](#) (all jurisdictions).



