HELSINKI REGION INFOSHARE

Open data from Helsinki region
Avointa seudullista tietoa
Öppen regional information

www.hri.fi/en

Helsinki Region Infoshare service

Helsinki Region Infoshare (HRI) service ***www.hri.fi/en/*** is an open data service, which provides public data sets regarding Helsinki Metropolitan Area (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen) as open data for anyone to use freely. Open data can be used by citizens, businesses, universities, academies, research facilities and municipal administration. HRI provides a wide range of open data regarding e.g. living conditions, economics and well-being, employment and transport. A good proportion of the data is GIS-based. Open data is a useful raw material in research and development activities, decision-making, visualisation, data journalism and in the development of apps.

HRI aims to develop four essential areas: data production, accessing data, data sharing and data utilisation. The main operational activity is to support the producers of information in opening their data and to increase its utilisation by using multi-channel communication (e.g. social media, blogs, etc.).

http://www.hri.fi/en/
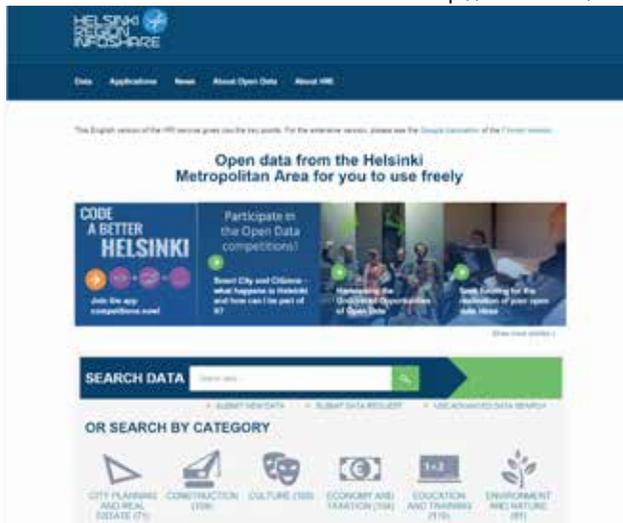
HRI is funded by the cities of Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen. HRI has also been supported by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra and the Finnish Ministry of Finance. HRI has been created and developed in close cooperation with Forum Virium Helsinki. The service is coordinated by City of Helsinki Urban Facts.

Data opening process in practise

1 Check that the data fulfills the criteria of open data and HRI.

2 Accept the license (permit to use the data freely).

3 Describe the content of the data (metadata).

4 Decide the location where the data will be shared and maintained.

5 Publish the data in www.hri.fi and market it.

HRI's criteria for publishing data

☑ **The data set must be produced and maintained by a public agency (e.g. department).**

☑ **The data set must be related to Helsinki Region or some district of it.**

☑ **The content of the data set must be public and publishing the data must not break any laws, regulations or agreements.**

☑ **The data set should be available for anyone to use freely.**

☑ **The data set should be available on internet for anyone.**

☑ **The data set should be released with an open license (permit), which also allows the commercial reuse of the data. HRI highly recommends using the international Creative Commons BY 4.0 license.**

☑ **The data must be in machine-readable and structured format, for instance as a CSV file or available through an open application programming interface (REST API) that returns the data in XML or JSON format. The data set can also be published e.g. as an Excel file or a Google Docs spreadsheet.**

Benefits of open data

Open data gives citizens access to public data regarding their living area. This improves the transparency of public administration, enhances democracy and enables active citizenship. Open data breeds new markets and supports innovation. In addition, open data can be utilised in research, teaching and data journalism. Opening public data also improves governmental efficiency, saves common resources, thus leading to better services.
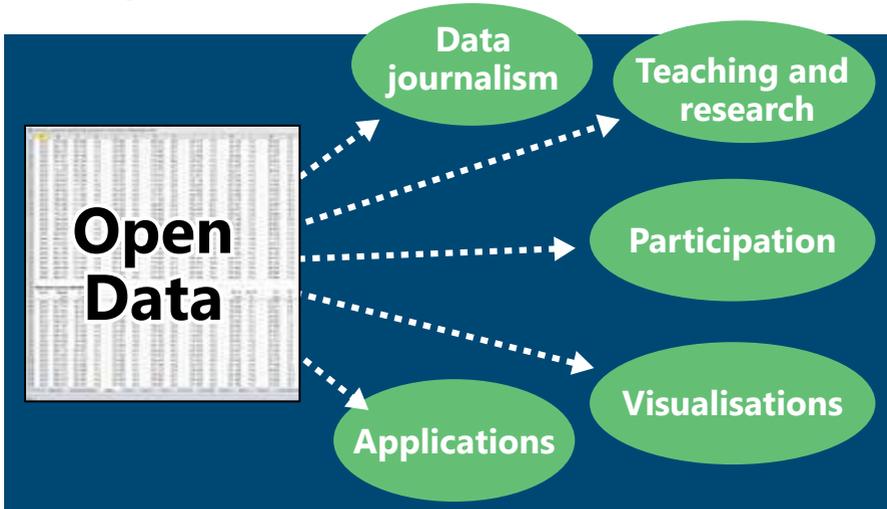
Open data published via HRI has been utilised in many different ways. There are several interesting open data use cases in the HRI application gallery *www.hri.fi/en/applications/*.

Helsinki before and now

BlindSquare

Ahjo Explorer

Snowplow

Cover photo from the video Helsinki Public Transport Visualized by Lauri Vanhala.