Open government data

Open and machine-readable data of
the public administration

opendata.swiss ⟲

What do we mean by open government data?

Open government data are data from the public sector that are made freely available by the government and the administration out of general interest for free use, redistribution and reuse without charge.

Government data that are open and freely accessible promote transparency, participation and innovation in all areas of society. In order to make this principle sustainable, data from federal agencies, but also from cantons, communes and other organisations with a government mandate are increasingly published in an open, free and machine-readable format and referenced on the opendata.swiss portal. Excluded from publication as open government data are private trade secrets or data for which there is a special protective interest anchored in a special law (data protection act, information protection, copyright).

The Open Government Data Strategy 2019–2023

The Strategy for Open Government Data in Switzerland 2019–2023 was adopted on 30th November 2018. The ultimate goal is to ensure that from 2020 onwards all new data produced or commissioned by the public sector is made available to the public as open government data following the open by default principle.

The strategy covers five goals:
– Encouraging coordinated publication of data;
– Assuring high quality data and metadata;
– Continuing operation of the central portal opendata.swiss;
– Creating and using a central data register;
– Encouraging the use of data.

The strategy is binding for the central federal administration. For the cantons, the communes and enterprises with close connections to the Federal Administration, the strategy is an invitation to become more involved in this area.

Open government data office

The open government data office attached to the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) coordinates the implementation of the open government data strategy 2019–2023 in close cooperation with the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA). The office coordinates the introduction of the open by default policy, supports both data providers and users and is responsible for communication measures and for the opendata.swiss platform.

– Would you like to publish your data in the form of open government data and reference them on the opendata.swiss portal?
– Are you looking for a data set that is not listed on opendata.swiss?
– Do you have an example of data reuse that you would like to reference on opendata.swiss?

Please contact us at: **opendata@bfs.admin.ch**

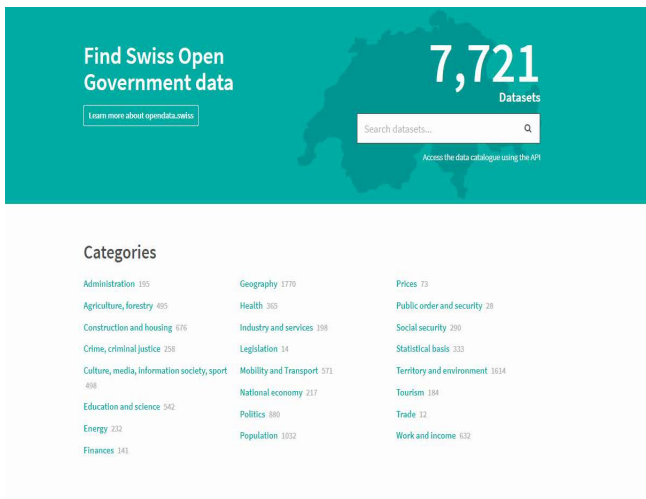# The OGD office's activities and services

For data providers

– Assisting data providers with publication, from the identification of potential OGD to publication;
– Definition of quality requirements for publication and continuous monitoring of compliance;
– Support in establishing contact and cooperation with data users,
– Support in introducing the open by default policy in legal and organisational terms;
– Coordination of Switzerland's activities with national (cantons, communes, state enterprise) and international partners (EU, OECD, OGD-D-A-CH-Li etc.) in the field of open government data.

For data users

– Preparation of the opendata.swiss catalogue ensuring that it is easy to find the published open government data;
– Support in searching for public administration data sets and requests for the publication of data not yet published;
– Support in establishing contact and cooperation with data providers, in particular by strengthening networking between data providers and data users,
– Promotion of a nationally coordinated data publication that is as demand-led as possible;
– Creation of an overview of the Confederation's data (central "Data inventory of the Federal Administration Data").

The opendata.swiss portal

opendata.swiss is the central portal for open, freely available data from the Swiss authorities. The data come from all areas of the public administration and concern for example health data, health insurance premiums, population statistics, geo-information and public transport data.

handbook.opendata.swiss

Under handbook.opendata.swiss, you will find instructions and guidelines for the publication and use of open government data. The aim is to support data providers and organisations in the publication of open government data. The contents are organised throughout the publication process: from the identification of possible open data in your organisation to data maintenance following successful publication of your data on opendata.swiss.

This handbook is a dynamic document. It is updated and revised on an ongoing basis. Do you have any questions or suggestions for further content? Contact us.

Further information

Contact : opendata@bfs.admin.ch
Website : www.bfs.admin.ch/ogd
Twitter : @opendataswiss

SUBJECT LEADER
egovernment
schweiz · suisse · svizzera

As subject leader for eGovernment Switzerland, the Open Government Data office takes a leading role in coordinating the implementation and the expansion of eGovernment services. eGovernment Switzerland is the federal, cantonal and communal organisation for the extension of electronic authority services.

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