

Open data, accessibility and the right to reuse it
are of key importance to the public

Antje Lorch, Ecoropa

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Information needs to be
open, accessible & re-usable
technically and politically.

	technically	politically
Open	Open-data formats	no restrictions, pro-active publication of data
Accessible	meeting accessibility standards	easy to find websites – not apps
Re-usable	can be exported	no restrictions on how the public can reuse the data

Example:

BfR statement on glyphosate (2015)

- technically very easy to access but legally restricted
- not reusable
- high costs for website & lawyers



<https://fragdenstaat.de/blog/2019/07/04/glyphosat-gutachten-hier-ist-es/>

Reusing information!

You don't know how people will reuse information
– or which tools they will use -
especially not in emergency situations
or when addressing a very specific group.

- Transforming data (e.g. print-to-speech)
- Data visualisation
- Combining data
- Improvising

Synergies

- Combining data from different sources
- less work
- more information

Example:

BCH of the CBD

- Database with data about GMOs, national decisions & national reports to the CBD
- imports data from other databases
- Common format for national reports

Analysis: Breakdown by CBD regions

 Print

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Σ Percentage overall ▾

Article 6 – Transit and Contained use (Questions 23 - 24) ▲

Question 23

Does your country regulate the transit of LMOs?

 Compare with previous report(s) ▾

	Total	%	AFR ▾	Asia ▾	CEE ▾	GRULAC ▾	WEOG ▾
☿ Yes	19	76%	16%	8%	16%	0%	36%
☿ Yes, to some extent	1	4%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%
☿ No	5	20%	16%	0%	4%	0%	0%

Question 24

Does your country regulate the contained use of LMOs?

 Compare with previous report(s) ▾

	Total	%	AFR ▾	Asia ▾	CEE ▾	GRULAC ▾	WEOG ▾
☿ Yes	21	84%	20%	8%	20%	0%	36%
☿ No	4	16%	16%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Re-using data creates synergies,
improves accessibility & can improve data

Challenges: Which information?

- open government data
- data paid for by citizens, used to govern citizens
- Confidential business information
- incomplete data (e.g. summaries)

Modernizing?

Yes, as long as it stays stable and resilient.

We need information and data
more than nice displays.

Original data,
full data sets (CSV etc),
linked data (RDF, JSON-LD)
rather than graphics made from aggregated data.

Benefits!

- Open, accessible & re-usable information allows people to participate.
- It gives them agency to halt climate change and biodiversity loss.

SDGs

- “(d) Support countries’ efforts in measuring and monitoring environment-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including target 16.10 on ensuring public access to information in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.”

Access to information is *not* a goal in itself.

It's a necessary tool to achieve other goals.

SDG 1:

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- Target 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and **reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters**

SDG 2:

End hunger, achieve food security
and improved nutrition and
promote sustainable agriculture

- Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure **sustainable food production systems** and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, **that help maintain ecosystems**, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

- **Target 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species**, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and **promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits** arising from the utilization of genetic resources and

Conclusions

- We need open, accessible and reusable information.
- This is a technical and a political issue.
- Access to information and the agency to act on it has social & environmental benefits, even as it might challenge authorities and companies.
- Access to information is not a goal in itself, but helps us in dealing with climate change and