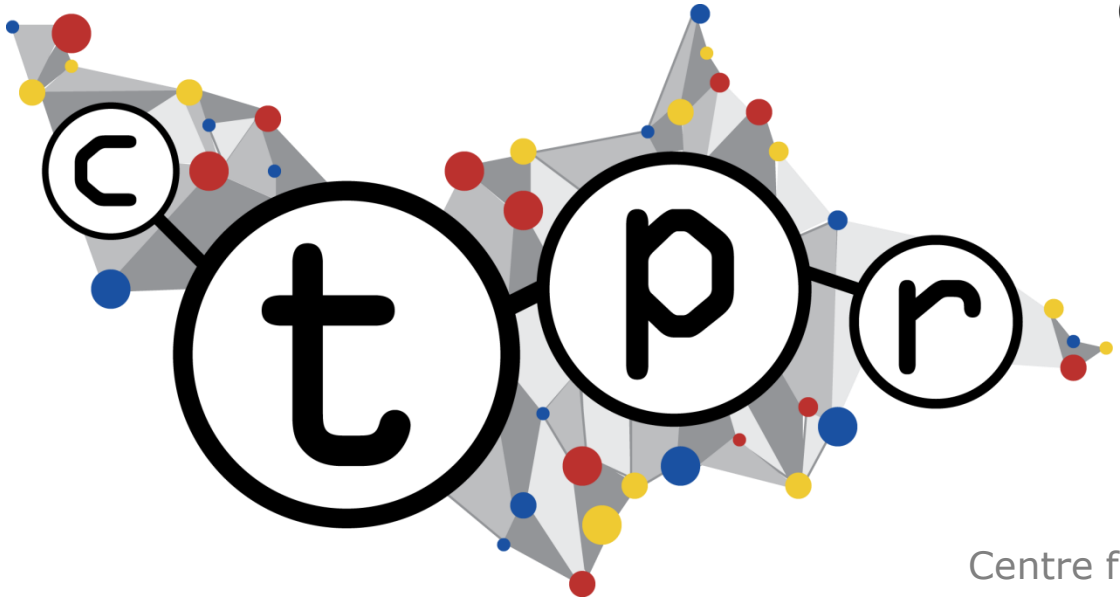
Open Forum Europe Summit
Brussels, June 2010



Centre for Technology Policy Research

June 2010

delivering truly open e-government and digital citizenship: policy challenges

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open government

"... the commitment to ensure that all aspects of the way that government and public services are administered and operated are open to effective public scrutiny and oversight..."

UK policy landscape

- May 2010 saw the publication of "open government" which:
  - reviews the significance of open government
  - provides a clear pathway towards its delivery in the UK
  - ... but its recommendations are universally applicable ....

... the concept, at policy level, is nothing new. Open information and processes have long been seen as key enablers ....

"... as the private and voluntary sectors act as intermediaries between the citizen and the state, government can reduce expenditure on its delivery channels.

*Secondly**, there will be real competition as soon as government allows access to its information, with the expected benefits to the citizen**."*

(p.35)

"This vision of a mixed economy delivery market offers significant benefits to the consumer.

These arise for two key reasons:

- *it will create **competition** to drive up quality for the citizen and **reduce costs**; and*

- *new **value-added intermediaries** will provide more **customer-focused** services."*

(p.60)

in fact, in the UK it's at least 10 years old ...

the preceding quotes are taken from:

Electronic Government Services for the 21st Century

Performance and Innovation Unit

September 2000

it’s a hot political topic in the UK and elsewhere

We will legislate to enforce the freedom of government data. We will create a powerful new ‘Right to Government Data’, enabling the public to request – and receive – government datasets. This will radically increase the amount of government data released – and will provide a multi-billion pound boost to the UK economy. President Obama’s administration has already implemented a ‘Right to Data’ policy.

We will be the first country in Europe to extend superfast 100 mbps broadband across most

local govt is showing the way ...

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Popular Links

- Bus Services
- Council Tax
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- Jobs At The Council
- Leisure Centres
- Libraries

Location: Council and Democracy » Council budgets and spending » Payments to Suppliers

Payments to Suppliers

The attached reports list the total payments to suppliers with a cumulative value over £500. Publication of these lists forms part of the Council's commitment to be open and transparent with its residents.

If you would like to know more about the type of business conducted with these suppliers, please e-mail finance@rbwm.gov.uk. We will aim to provide a response within two working days. We aim to be as transparent as we can but in some cases we will need to respect information that could be seen as commercially sensitive.

Important Note about the CSV files

We have saved the spreadsheets as CSV files so that they can be easily read in a variety of applications. However the CSV format uses a standard column width and not all entries may be completely visible. To view all the data, you will need to expand the columns. You can do this by selecting all the cells in the file (the grey box beside column A and above row 1), and then clicking on Format / Column / AutoFitSelection.

October to December 2009:

Payments to Suppliers Oct 09 to Dec 09 (CSV) (640 KB)

Payments to Suppliers Oct 09 to Dec 09 (PDF)

(**warning:** large file size 1662 KB)

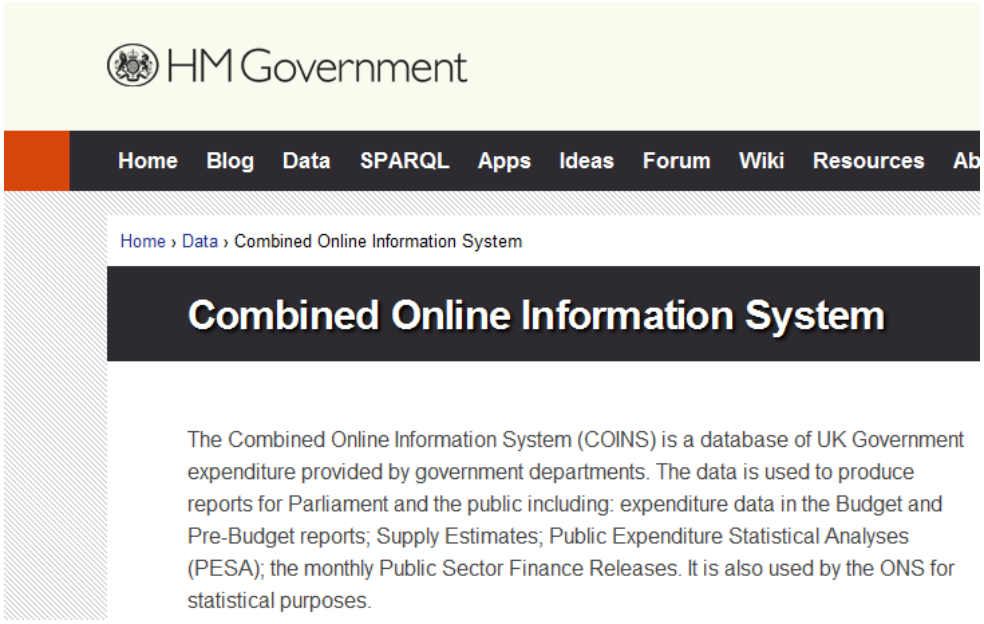
Related Links

- Council Finance
- Section 106 Developer Contributions

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/finance_payments_to_suppliers.htm

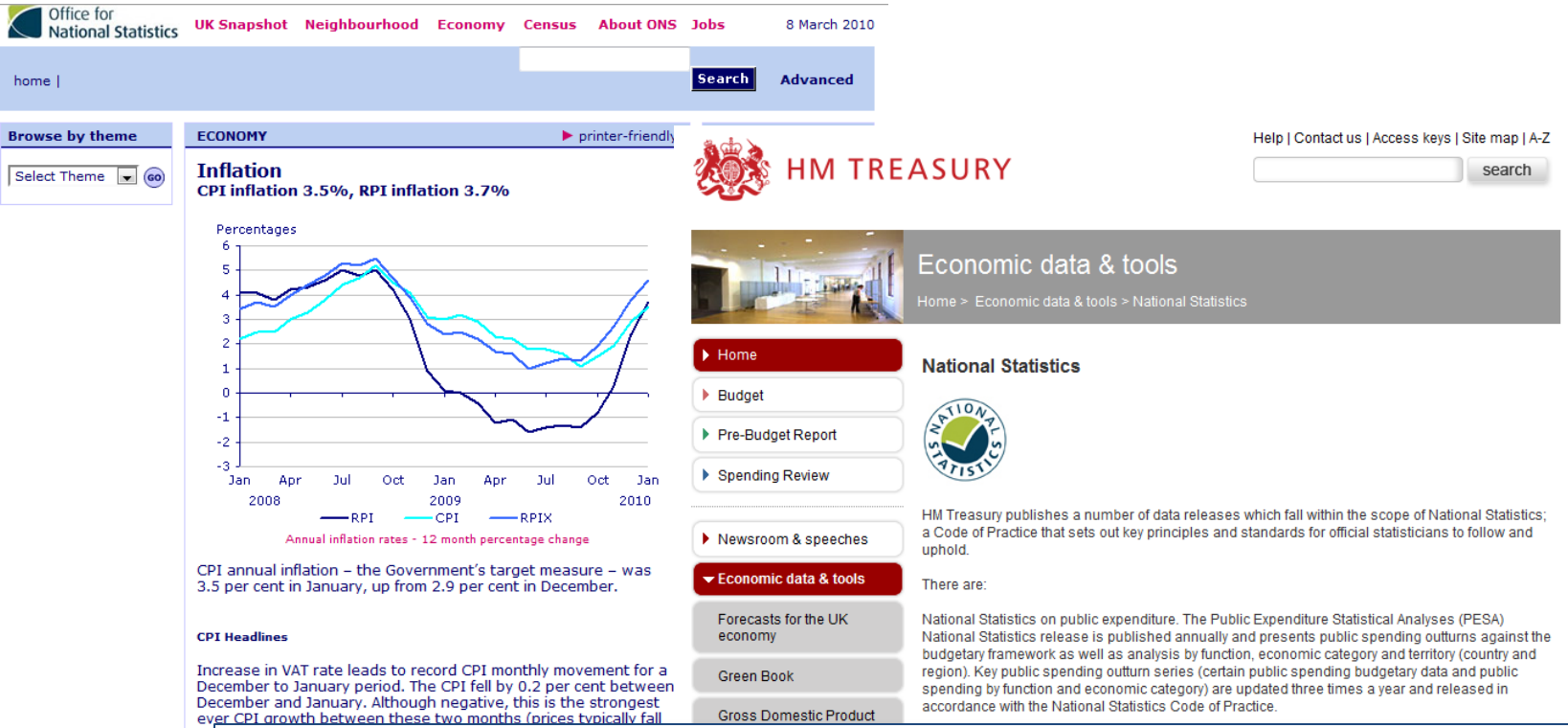
it's not just about open "data" .....

- current definition useful but narrow: open *data*
- we need open *information* in its widest sense – including open rule-sets and open processes too, not just data



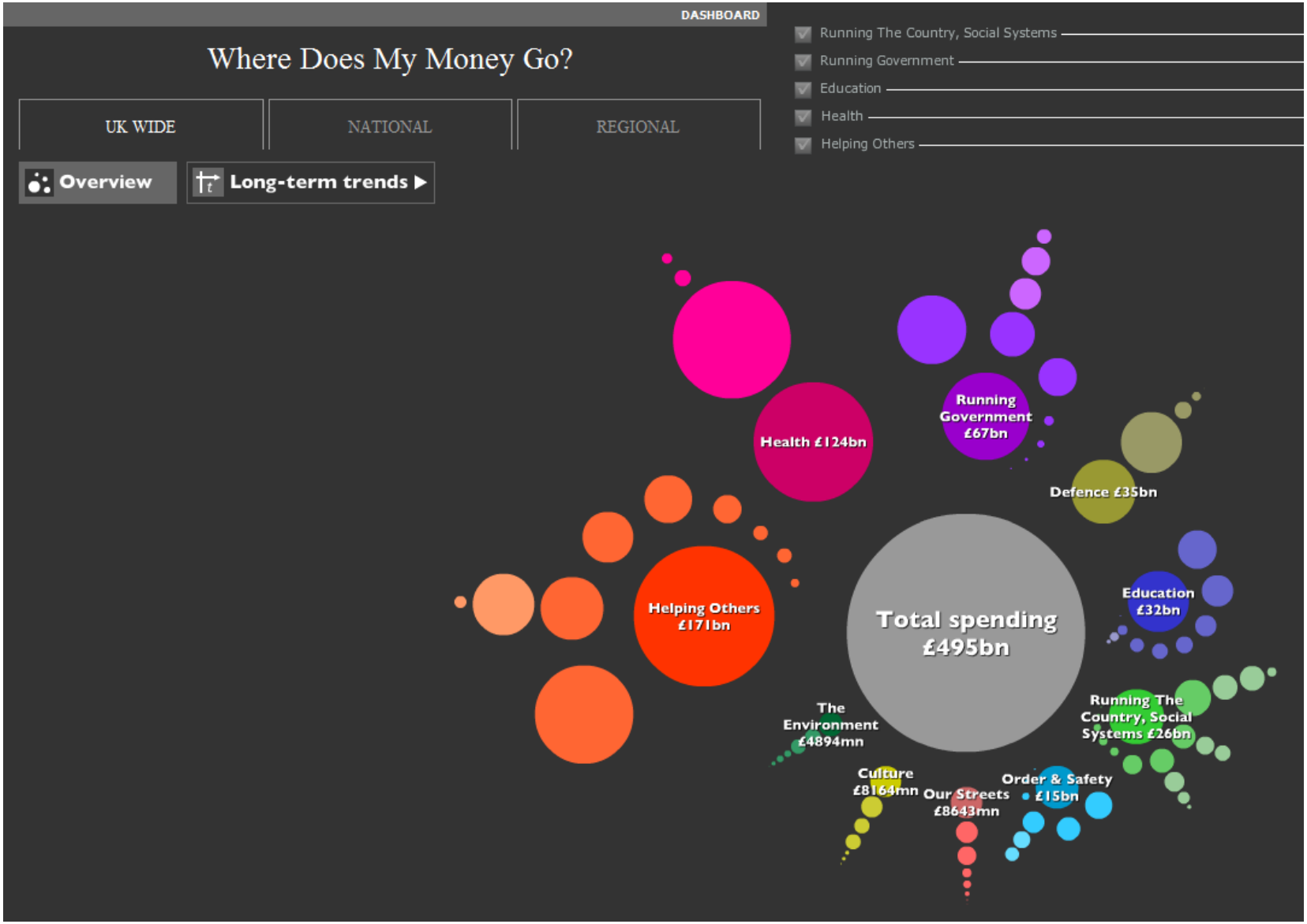
MTH	Customs		Revenue: Valuation Office	IT_IDS			
March 2010 MTH	HM Revenue and Customs	P43Valuation Office Agency - capital	P43 S130211 Inland Revenue: Valuation Office	Additions - IT_IDS	DEL	Capital	4006
September 2009 MTH	HM Revenue and Customs	P43Valuation Office Agency - capital	P43 S130211 Inland Revenue: Valuation Office	Additions - IT_IDS	DEL	Capital	4
February 2010 MTH	HM Revenue and Customs	P43Valuation Office Agency - capital	P43 S130211 Inland Revenue: Valuation Office	Additions - IT_IDS	DEL	Capital	1930
June 2009	HM Revenue and	P43Improve extent to which customers	P43 S130201 Tax and	Additions -	DEL	Capital	118

c. 5Gb ... of raw database dump



- accepted that data needs to be provided in machine readable format (not just PDFs) – but needs to be consistently enforced
- the calculation rules, assumptions etc **also** need to be openly published in re-usable form
- without that context:
  - the data itself may be meaningless
  - assumptions and processes can't be challenged and improved

simplifying complex data/information



True scale of violent crime rise revealed

The true scale of how violent crime has grown under Labour has been disclosed by Whitehall officials.

By Tom Whitehead, Home Affairs Editor
Published: 10:00PM GMT 08 Mar 2010

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Link to this video

Violent attacks are estimated to be 44 per cent higher than they were in 1998 after research on the way police record them allowed comparisons for the first time.

The study, by the independent House of Commons Library, shows violence against the person increased from 618,417 to 887,942 last year.

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General Election 2010 - full coverage

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NEWS MOST VIEWED

TODAY | PAST WEEK | PAST MONTH

1. French bread spiked with LSD in CIA experiment
2. Duke of Edinburgh asks female sea cadet if she works at a strip club
3. Bank of America apologises for repossessing parrot

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some issues ....

(poor?) quality of data (and fear of exposing it)

periodic re-baselining of data (cf crime stats)

"*It costs too much / distracts us from delivering public services*"

public data cannot necessarily be easily anonymised ... aggregated data can lead to invasions of personal privacy (cf differential privacy)

real-time data flows challenge traditional approaches and planning (a 10 yearly census?)

... open consultations typically produce tens of thousands of responses (cf forum posts) ....

So the problems here include:

- the **technical** (are you going to do some data mining?)
- the **organisational** (are you going to introduce active moderation and who is going to do that?)
- the **legal** (what is the position of consultations in the legislative life cycle and how are you going to define the results?)

commercial models to support policy on open government ....

- change in governance – new localism and high value use of open information, data and processes will be a pull-demand rather than an arbitrary central push

- clear ownership and accountability for the open information agenda (ie. who owns it? CIO? Politicians? Citizens? Businesses?)

- why not *mandate* transparency in public administration?

- will require an open licence (Creative Commons?). But under which wider principles – BSD? GPL2? GPL3?

- open rule-sets and processes not just information and data

commercial models to support policy on open government ....

- will it require per-transaction rewards/payment by results? If so, they will be paid for by cost savings on govt side:
    - implications: staff reductions; system reductions; recognition that govt does not need to own and operate everything itself; that management needs to catch up with the last 20 years of IT
- should money should follow the successful service provider / innovator?
- how to enforce and give meaning to the use of intermediaries, multi-channel strategy, federated trust, interoperability frameworks etc
- ... a return to a 1990's vision: public services available through a wide range of channels and intermediaries, responsive to local needs

.... yet without a culture change and a viable commercial model, it will not succeed this time any better than last time

making it happen: technology policy

- **PUBLIC DATA**
  - **Require the default open publication of data, interfaces and processes in all current and future procurements**

making it happen: technology policy

- **PRIVATE DATA**
  - **Deliver two volunteered personal information prototypes:** *(cross-organisational in nature) to establish a new culture and technical approach to the handling of personal data*

making it happen: technology policy

- **PRIVACY AND SECURITY**
  - **Mandate the principle of privacy by design**
  - **Review, modernise and streamline the existing security regime**
  - **Undertake ongoing risk analyses of aggregated public data sets and their potential impact on privacy**
  - **Implement a Privacy Commons**

making it happen: technology policy

- **OPEN LICENSING**
  - **Mandate open licensing as the default government licence:** *uses of information, processes and related tasks must become freely available within a harmonised licensing framework.*

..... the European Court of Auditors has refused to sign off, for 15 years in a row*, the EU's own accounts.*

... all these recommendations on open government, and more, need to be applied with rigour to the EU and EC .... lead by example

summary

- "open by default" is a significant disruption
  - but only if it applies across information, processes, etc to truly enable transparency, collaboration and participation
- *transparency* is *primus inter pares* in terms of its policy implications
- issues of privacy and security need an improved analysis and framework
- sustainable commercial models around intermediated uses of open information need to be developed
- a major policy contention remains:
  - a strong political will is needed to drive the necessary changes
  - successful changes will reverse power in favour of the citizen and away from the state
- we shall observe by the EU/EC's actions, not its words, how serious it is about the open agenda ....
  - but right now, change, particularly transparency, seems to be coming from the other direction, from the ground up ...

Further Reading

• Digital Era Governance (Patrick Dunleavy, Helen Margetts, Simon Bastow, Jane Tinkler). Oxford, 2008.
• Dutch e-Citizen Charter http://www.burgerlink.nl/englishsite/e-citizen-charter/e-citizen-charter.xml (at http://www.burger.overheid.nl/files/burgerservicecode_uk.pdf as of 05.03.2010)
• http://opengovernmentdata.org/
• http://opensourceforamerica.org/guidelines
• Open Government: Collaboration, Transparency and Participation in Practice (Edited by Daniel Lathrop, Laurel Ruma). O'Reilly, 2010.
• "Government Data and the Invisible Hand," David G. Robinson, Harlan Yu, William Zeller, and Edward W. Felten, Yale Journal of Law & Technology, Vol. 11, 2009 (http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1138083)
• "The Right of Public Participation in the Law-Making Process and the Role of the Legislature in the Promotion of This Right," Karen Czapanskiy and Rashida Manjoo, University of Maryland School of Law Legal Studies, Vol. 42, 2008: 31
• Public Sector Information Directive (http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/psi/index_en.htm)
• Extracting Value From Public Sector Information: Legal Framework and Regional Policies (EVPSI) Project (http://www.epsiplatform.eu/news/news/evpsi_public_launch)
• European Project LAPSI (Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information) (http://nexa.polito.it/LAPSIKickOffMeeting_eng)

contact / continuing discussion

- for further information about this deck, the “open government” report and the Centre for Technology Policy Research (CTPR), please email:
  - info@ctpr.org
- or visit our website at:
  - ctpr.org
- the “open government” report is freely available (PDF) directly from:
  - http://ctpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/CTPR-Report-Open-Government.pdf

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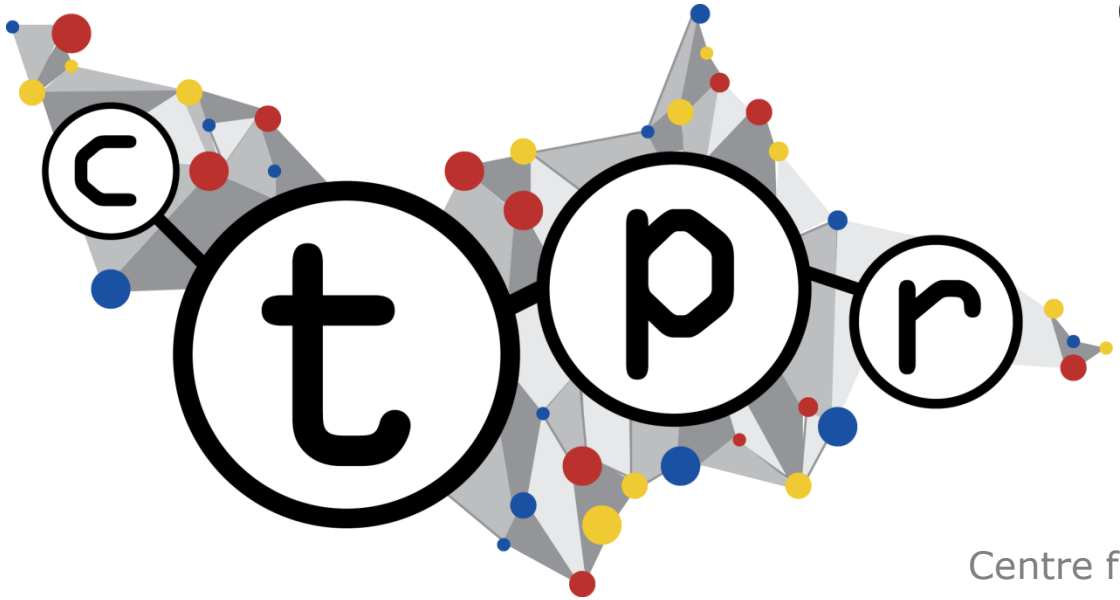

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