



Opendata.ch

Swiss Open Data Association
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Prof. Dirk Helbing
Scientific Coordinator of FuturICT
Chair of Sociology, in particular of Modeling and Simulation
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FuturICT and Opendata.ch

Dear Dirk Helbing

It is important for me to express the great interest of the Opendata.ch Association in an intensive cooperation with the FuturICT project. Our Association is committed to the open access of person-independent data of the public sector. We subscribe to this goal in the firm belief that Open Data is a almost inexhaustible source of social benefits, economic growth and scientific knowledge. FuturICT is committed to the scientific use of the exponentially growing amounts of global data, and is therefore the ideal partner for the Open Data movement. Public data only leads to useful knowledge by scientific exploration, evaluation and refinement of and, therefore, Opendata.ch is keen on a close cooperation with FuturICT.

Opendata.ch is the official organization of the rapidly growing Swiss Open Data Community. In recent years, the Association has successfully promoted the publication and use of Open Data in Switzerland. At its regularly scheduled “Hack Days”, several hundred activists, software developers and designers have developed and published numerous Open Data applications. The Opendata.ch conferences are attended by interested parties from all areas of society and are well received by the media. Prominent politicians represent the interests of Opendata.ch at national, cantonal and local level. As Swiss Chapter of the Open Knowledge Foundation, Opendata.ch is networked with the global Open Data movement. To ensure easy access to all Open Data in Switzerland and to make the use of Open Data available to a broad audience, the Opendata.ch Association will establish a *Swiss Open Data Platform* in the coming months. This platform will enhance the cooperation between producers and users of Open Data. It offers civil society the opportunity to participate in Open Data-based scientific work, thereby contributing to a global participatory platform as envisaged by FuturICT.



Data is the basis for innovation, economic growth and scientific knowledge. Data is also a strategic resource for Switzerland. The sustainable use of data is critical for the future of Switzerland as a center of business, science and technology, and this will require the formation of a robust national data infrastructure in the coming years. The cooperation between Opendata.ch and FuturICT is a first important milestone on this road. As cooperative effort in the interest of civil society, science, business, and governance, it will find a high level of acceptance in the Swiss public. With this auspicious perspective in mind, we should not lose any time and start with the establishment of a joint participatory data infrastructure right away.

I look forward to our cooperation.

Sincerely

André Golliez

President

October 1st 2012