

Press Release

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Open Knowledge Conference 2013

Open Data - Broad, Deep, Connected

The World's Leading Open Data & Open Knowledge Event Comes to Geneva

The Open Knowledge Foundation is pleased to announce that the 2013 Open Knowledge Conference (OKCon) will take place in Geneva, Switzerland on 17th-18th September. The theme of this year's edition will be *Open Data – Broad, Deep, Connected*.

The world's leading open data and open knowledge event, OKCon is the latest in an annual series run since 2005. Last year's installment in Helsinki had more than 1000 participants from over 50 countries and was largest event of its kind to date. Previous speakers have included inventor of the World Wide Web Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Hans Rosling of Gapminder, Brewster Kahle of the Internet Archive and Ellen Miller of the Sunlight Foundation.

Located in Geneva, a major site for the United Nations and many other international institutions, this year's event will focus on coordinating and strengthening public policy around the world to support a truly global and interconnected ecosystem of open data.

The event is jointly organized by the Open Knowledge Foundation and Open Knowledge Foundation Switzerland with the support of the Swiss Government and the Canton of Geneva.

Rufus Pollock, Founder and Director of the Open Knowledge Foundation, said, *"As the home of many international institutions, including the United Nations, Geneva is the ideal location for the 2013 event which looks at how open data is spreading around the world. This event is a focal point for us - an opportunity to bring together not only our network but the broader community, and to promote awareness around action we can each take to strengthen public policy and the open data ecosystem globally."*

André Gollietz, President of Open Knowledge Foundation Switzerland, said, *"Having the international Open Knowledge Conference in Switzerland under the patronage of Federal Councillor Alain Berset will give a strong impulse to Open Government Data in the country, firmly establishing the topic on our national agenda and further pushing innovation and transparency in the public*

sector.”

Tariq Khokhar, Open Data Evangelist, World Bank, said, *“The Open Knowledge Conference is one of the most valuable gatherings of thinkers and doers of all things open. I was hugely impressed with last year’s event - I learned a lot, made valuable connections, and as someone working on open data in international development, I’m really looking forward to 2013.”*

Hannes Gassert, technology entrepreneur and community organizer at Opendata.ch, said, *“In business, we are not only seeing the emergence of exciting high-tech startups, but established enterprises are seeing more potential every day as well. There is great potential in leveraging our assets such as its participatory culture and its tradition of data quality to boost businesses small and large.”*

ENDS

For comment & interviews please contact: press@okcon.org or 07795 176 976

Notes for editors

About the event: OKCon

- **OKCon 2013. Open Data - Broad, Deep, Connected** will take place on the 17- 18 September 2013, at the CICG – Centre International de Conférence de Genève, Switzerland. The official website is <http://okcon.org/>.
- OKCon is the latest in an annual series run **since 2005**. Last year’s installment in Helsinki had **more than 1000 participants from over 50 countries** and was largest event of its kind to date.
- **Previous speakers** have included inventor of the World Wide Web, **Sir Tim Berners-Lee**; **Hans Rosling** of Gapminder; **Brewster Kahle** of the Internet Archive; **Ellen Miller** of the Sunlight Foundation; **Martin Tisne**, director of policy at Omidyar Network in London; **Tiago Peixoto**, Open Government Specialist at the World Bank; **James Cameron**, founder and the non-executive Chairman of Climate Change Capital; and other major figures in the open knowledge community.
- **Recent developments:** The last few years have seen government open data initiatives grow from a handful to hundreds, and open data become important in areas such as research, culture and international development. This event will explore how open data is not only expanding geographically but also touching new sectors and new areas. How should governments and international institutions such as the UN react to these changes, how should business take advantage of new opportunities and contribute to the open data economy? How do citizens and civil society organizations turn data into accountability and into change?

- **Key themes:** The event will focus on 3 themes: 1) How do we **broaden open data** - not only geographically across countries and regions but also across domains and institutions? 2) How do we **deepen open data** - ensuring a commitment not only for today but for the long term and ensuring that open data is fully embedded into processes and policies? 3) How do we ensure the **open data ecosystem is connected?** Much of the value of open data will be lost if open data ends up locked into isolated silos - whether these are legal, technical or social. We need data that extends across countries and institutions and is easy to interconnect thanks to common standards and interoperable infrastructure.
- **Topics:** Government & Civic Data; Business & Open Data; Education; Aid & Sustainability; Environment, Energy & Transport; Research; Health; Open, Personal & Big Data; Management, Analysis And Visualization; Media & Journalism in the Open Web.
- For more information and tickets please visit <http://okcon.org>.

About the Open Knowledge Foundation

- The Open Knowledge Foundation (OKF) is a non-profit organisation founded in 2004 and dedicated to empowering through open knowledge. It promotes open data and open content in all their forms – including government data, publicly funded research and public domain cultural content. It is an international leader in its field and has extensive experience in building tools and community around open material. More information at <http://www.okfn.org>.

About the Open Knowledge Foundation Switzerland (OpenData.ch)

- [Opendata.ch](http://opendata.ch) is the Swiss chapter of the Open Knowledge Foundation. Its aim is to ensure that the Swiss direct democracy remains sustainable, constantly adapting to the changes in society and technology.

What is Open Knowledge?

- Open knowledge is material that can be freely accessed, shared and reused. Knowledge is interpreted broadly, covering both content and data, encompassing everything from genes to geodata and sonnets to statistics. More information can be found in <http://OpenDefinition.org/> and at <http://okfn.org/>.

What is Open Data?

- Open data is data that can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone – subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and sharealike. More details at <http://okfn.org/opendata> and <http://opendefinition.org/>.