AMENDMENTS 001-001
by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Report
Neoklis Sylikiotis
Re-use of public sector information


Amendment 1

AMENDMENTS BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT*

to the Commission proposal at first reading

DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on Open Data and the re-use of public sector information (recast)

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular
Article 114 thereof,

* Amendments: new or amended text is highlighted in bold italics; deletions are indicated by strikeout.
Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

(1) Directive 2003/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council has been substantially amended. Since further amendments are to be made, that Directive should be recast in the interests of clarity.

(2) Pursuant to Article 13 of Directive 2003/98/EC and five years after the adoption of the amending Directive 2013/37/EU, the Commission has, after consulting the relevant stakeholders, undertaken an evaluation and review of the functioning of the Directive in the framework of a Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme.

(3) Following the stakeholder consultation and in the light of the Impact Assessment results, the Commission considered that action at Union level was necessary in order to address the remaining and emerging barriers to a wide re-use of public sector and publicly-funded information across the Union and to bring the legislative framework up to date with the advances in digital technologies, and further stimulate digital innovation, especially in artificial intelligence.

(4) The substantive changes introduced to the legal text so as to fully exploit the potential of public sector information for the European economy and society focus on the following areas: the provision of real-time access to dynamic data via adequate technical means, increasing the supply of high-value public data for re-use, including from public undertakings as well as from private undertakings when produced in the performance of a service of general economic interest falling within the scope of this Directive, research performing organisations and research funding organisations, tackling the emergence of new forms of exclusive arrangements, the use of exceptions to the

---


(4a) Access to information is a fundamental right. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (the ‘Charter’) provides that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, including the right to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.

(4b) Article 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union guarantees the right to the protection of personal data and states that such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law and under the control by an independent authority.

(5) The Treaty provides for the establishment of an internal market and of a system ensuring that competition in the internal market is not distorted. Harmonisation of the rules and practices in the Member States relating to the exploitation of public sector information contributes to the achievement of these objectives.

(6) The public sector in the Member States collects, produces, reproduces and disseminates a wide range of information in many areas of activity, such as social, political, economic, legal, geographical, environmental, weather, seismicity, tourist, business, patent and education. Documents produced by public sector bodies of executive, legislative or judicial nature constitute a vast, diverse and valuable pool of resources that can benefit society. Providing this information in a commonly-used electronic format allows citizens and businesses to find new ways to use them and create new, innovative products and services. Member States and public sector bodies should be able to benefit and received adequate financial support from the Digital Europe


Programme or relevant Union funds and programmes aimed at digitizing Europe, a wide use of digital technologies or the digital transformation of public administration and public services, in their efforts to make data easily available for re-use.

(6a) Public sector information represent an extraordinary source of data that can contribute to improving the single market and to the development of new applications for consumers and businesses. Intelligent data usage, including their processing though artificial intelligence applications, can have a transformation effect on all sectors of the economy.

(7) Directive 2003/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the re-use of public sector information established a minimum set of rules governing the re-use and the practical means of facilitating re-use of existing documents held by public sector bodies of the Member States, including executive, legislative and judicial bodies. Since the adoption of the first set of rules on re-use of public sector information, the amount of data in the world, including public data, has increased exponentially and new types of data are being generated and collected. In parallel, there is a continuous evolution in technologies for analysis, exploitation and processing of data, such as machine learning, artificial intelligence and the internet of things. This rapid technological evolution makes it possible to create new services and new applications, which are built upon the use, aggregation or combination of data. The rules originally adopted in 2003 and later amended in 2013 no longer keep pace with these rapid changes and as a result the economic and social opportunities offered by re-use of public data risk being missed.

(8) The evolution towards a data-based society, using data from different domains and activities, influences the life of every citizen in the Community, among other things, by enabling them to gain new ways of accessing and acquiring knowledge.

(9) Digital content plays an important role in this evolution. Content production has given rise to rapid job creation in recent years and continues to do so. Most of these jobs are created by innovative start-ups and SMEs.

(10) One of the principal aims of the establishment of an internal market is the creation of conditions conducive to the development of some services and products inside Member
States and Union-wide. Public sector information or information collected, produced, reproduced, and disseminated within the exercise of a public task or a service of general interest, is an important primary material for digital content products and services and will become an even more important content resource with the development of advanced digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, distributed ledger technologies and the internet of things. Intelligent data usage, including their processing through artificial intelligence applications, can have a transformational effect on all sectors of the economy. Broad cross-border geographical coverage will also be essential in this context. Wide possibilities of re-using such information should inter alia allow all European companies including microenterprises and SMEs, as well as civil society, to exploit its potential and contribute to economic development and quality job creation and protection, especially to the benefit of local communities, and to important societal goals such as accountability and transparency.

(11) Allowing re-use of documents held by a public sector body adds value for the re-users, for the end users and for society in general and in many cases for the public body itself, by promoting transparency and accountability and providing feedback from re-users and end users which allows the public sector body concerned to improve the quality of the information collected as well as the pursuit of its public tasks. With the development of new technologies, the dissemination of data collected and distributed within the exercise of a public task can contribute to ensuring users’ authentic information.

(12) There are considerable differences in the rules and practices in the Member States relating to the exploitation of public sector information resources, which constitute barriers to bringing out the full economic potential of this key document resource. Practice in public sector bodies in exploiting public sector information continues to vary among Member States. That should be taken into account. Minimum harmonisation of national rules and practices on the re-use of public sector documents should therefore be undertaken, in cases where the differences in national regulations and practices or the absence of clarity hinder the smooth functioning of the internal market and the proper development of the information society in the Community.
Member States should ensure the creation of data based on the principle of "open by design and by default", with regard to all documents falling in the scope of this Directive, while ensuring a consistent level of protection of public interest objectives, such as public security, including where sensitive information related to critical infrastructures are concerned; and while ensuring the protection of personal data, including where information in an individual data set may not present a risk of identifying or singling out a natural person, but when combined with other available information, could entail such risk. Open data policies ensuring the findability, accessibility, interoperability and re-usability (FAIR principles), and encouraging the wide availability and re-use of public sector information for private or commercial purposes, with minimal or no legal, technical or financial constraints, and which promote the circulation of information not only for economic operators but primarily for the public, can play an important role in transparency and democratic accountability, promote social engagement, and kick-start and promote the development of new services based on novel ways to combine and make use of such information. In order to maximise those benefits, access to sources and evolving data should be ensured. Interoperability, open standards and open data should therefore be implemented at the level of each Member State’s administration. At the same time, the Commission should facilitate the cooperation among Member States and support the design, testing, implementation and deployment of interoperable electronic interfaces that will enable more efficient and secure public services.

Moreover, without minimum harmonisation at Community level, legislative activities at national level, which have already been initiated in a number of Member States in order to respond to the technological challenges, might result in even more significant differences. The impact of such legislative differences and uncertainties will become more significant with the further development of the information society, which has already greatly increased cross-border exploitation of information.

Member States have established re-use policies under Directive 2003/98/EC and some of them have been adopting ambitious open data approaches to make re-use of accessible public data easier for citizens and companies beyond the minimum level set by that Directive. To prevent different rules in different Member States acting as a barrier to the cross-border offer of products and services, and to enable comparable
public data sets to be re-usable for pan-European applications based on them, a minimum harmonisation is required to determine what public data are available for re-use in the internal information market, consistent with the relevant access regime. The provisions of Union and national law that go beyond these minimum requirements, notably in cases of sectoral legislation, should continue to apply. Examples of provisions that exceed the minimum harmonisation level of this Directive include lower thresholds for permissible charges for re-use than the thresholds foreseen in Article 6 or less restrictive licensing terms than those referred to in Article 8. Notably, this Directive should be without prejudice to provisions that exceed the minimum harmonisation level of this Directive as laid down in Commission delegated regulations adopted under Directive 2010/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the framework for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems in the field of road transport and for interfaces with other modes of transport.

(16) A general framework for the conditions governing re-use of public sector documents is needed in order to ensure fair, proportionate and non-discriminatory conditions for the re-use of such information. Public sector bodies collect, produce, reproduce and disseminate documents to fulfil their public tasks. Use of such documents for other reasons constitutes a re-use. Member States' policies can go beyond the minimum standards established in this Directive, thus allowing for more extensive re-use.

(17) This Directive should apply to documents the supply of which forms part of the public tasks of the public sector bodies concerned, as defined by law or by other binding rules in the Member States. In the absence of such rules the public tasks should be defined in accordance with common administrative practice in the Member States, provided that the scope of the public tasks is transparent and subject to review. The public tasks could be defined generally or on a case-by-case basis for individual public sector bodies.

(18) This Directive should apply to documents that are made accessible for re-use when public sector bodies license, sell, disseminate, exchange or give out information. To avoid cross-subsidies, re-use should include further use of documents within the organisation itself for activities falling outside the scope of its public tasks. Activities falling outside the public task will typically include supply of documents that are
produced and charged for exclusively on a commercial basis and in competition with others in the market.

(19) The Directive should not in any way restrict or impair the performance of the statutory tasks of public authorities and other public bodies. Neither does it establish access. This decision remains at the discretion of the Member States. The Directive lays down an obligation for Member States to make all documents re-usable without prejudice to the exceptions laid down in this Directive, such as the protection of personal data, allowing Member States to restrict or exclude certain documents from access. The Directive builds on the existing access regimes in the Member States and does not change the national rules for access to documents. It does not apply in cases in which citizens or companies can, under the relevant access regime, only obtain a document if they can prove a particular interest. At Union level, Articles 41 (right to good administration) and 42 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union recognise the right of any citizen of the Union and any natural or legal person residing or having its registered office in a Member State to have access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. Public sector bodies should be encouraged to make available for re-use any documents held by them. Public sector bodies should promote and encourage re-use of documents, including official texts of a legislative and administrative nature in those cases where the public sector body has the right to authorise their re-use.

(20) The Member States often entrust the provision of services in the general interest with entities outside of the public sector while maintaining a high degree of control over such entities. At the same time, the provisions of the Directive 2003/98/EC apply only to documents held by public sector bodies, while excluding public undertakings from its scope. This leads to a poor availability for re-use of documents produced in the performance of services in the general interest in a number of areas, notably in the utility sectors. It also greatly reduces the potential for the creation of cross-border services based on documents held by public undertakings that provide services in the general interest. Re-use of data can play an important role in stimulating economic growth and promoting public engagement.

(21) Directive 2003/98/EC should therefore be amended in order to ensure that its provisions can be applied to the re-use of documents produced in the performance of services in
the general interest by public and private undertakings falling within the scope of this Directive, pursuing one of the activities referred to in Articles 8 to 14 of Directive 2014/25/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council\(^1\), as well as by public, and private, undertakings falling within the scope of this Directive, acting as public service operators pursuant to Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council on public passenger transport services by rail and by road, public, and private, undertakings falling within the scope of this Directive, acting as air carriers fulfilling public service obligations pursuant to Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 2008 on common rules for the operation of air services in the Community, and public, and private, undertakings falling within the scope of this Directive, acting as Community shipowners fulfilling public service obligations pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EEC) No 3577/92 of 7 December 1992 applying the principle of freedom to provide services to maritime transport within Member States (maritime cabotage).

(21a) This Directive should not apply to documents related to the provision of services in the general interest; to the re-use by direct competitors of public undertakings of documents produced in the scope of the activities directly exposed to competition and exempted from procurement rules under article 34 of Directive 2014/25/EU, for as long as they fulfil the conditions therein.

(21b) Due to the critical nature of their activities and to security and notification requirements, neither should the Directive apply to documents access to which is excluded or restricted on the grounds of the protection of the security of network and information systems within the meaning of Directive 2016/1148/EU or according to rules governing operators of critical infrastructures including operators of essential services within the meaning of Directive 2008/114/EC.

(22) This Directive should not contain an obligation to allow the re-use of documents produced by public or, when falling within the scope of this Directive, private undertakings. The decision whether or not to authorise re-use of any or all documents, within the scope of this Directive, should remain with the public or, where relevant,\(\)

---

undertaking concerned. Only after the public or, where relevant, private undertaking has chosen to make a document available for re-use, should it observe the relevant obligations laid down in Chapters III and IV of this Directive, in particular as regards formats, charging, transparency, licences, non-discrimination and prohibition of exclusive arrangements. On the other hand, the public or, where relevant, private undertaking is not required to comply with the requirements laid down in Chapter II, such as the rules applicable to processing of requests.

(23) The volume of research data generated is growing exponentially and has potential for re-use beyond the scientific community. In order to be able to address mounting societal challenges efficiently and in a holistic manner, it has become crucial and urgent to be able to access, blend and re-use data from different sources, as well as across sectors and disciplines. Research data includes statistics, results of experiments, measurements, observations resulting from fieldwork, survey results, interview recordings and images. It also includes meta-data, specifications and other digital objects. Research data is different from scientific articles reporting and commenting on findings resulting from their scientific research. For many years, the open availability and re-usability of scientific research results stemming from public funding has been subject to specific policy initiatives. Open access policies aim in particular to provide researchers and the public at large with access to research data as early as possible in the dissemination process and to enable its use and re-use. Open access helps enhance quality, reduce the need for unnecessary duplication of research, speed up scientific progress, combat scientific fraud, and it can overall favour economic growth and innovation. Beside open access, data management planning is swiftly becoming a standard scientific practice for ensuring data that is findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable (FAIR principles), as is the consistent provision of data management plans, which must be further encouraged.

(24) For the reasons explained above, it is appropriate to set an obligation on Member States to adopt open access policies with respect to publicly-funded research results and ensure that such policies are implemented by all research performing organisations and research funding organisations. Open access policies typically allow for a range of exceptions from making scientific research results openly available. On 17 July 2012, the Commission adopted a Recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific
information, updated on 25 April 2018\(^\text{1}\), and describing, among other things, relevant elements of open access policies. Additionally, the conditions, under which certain research results can be re-used, should be improved. For this reason, certain obligations stemming from this Directive should be extended to research data resulting from scientific research activities subsidised by public funding or co-funded by public and private-sector entities. **As a result, publicly-funded research data should be made open as the default option.** However, in this context, concerns in relation to privacy, protection of personal data, trade secrets, national security, legitimate commercial interests and to intellectual property rights of third parties should be duly taken into account *in accordance with the principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary" in order to focus on encouraging data management as an essential part of research*. Where access is restricted, reasons for this restriction on re-use should be communicated to the public. In order to avoid any administrative burden, such obligations should only apply to such research data that have already been made publicly available by researchers. Other types of documents held by research performing organisations and research funding organisations should continue to be exempt from the scope of application of this Directive.


(26) This Directive lays down a generic definition of the term ‘document’. It covers any representation of acts, facts or information — and any compilation of such acts, facts or information — whatever its medium (written on paper, or stored in electronic form or as a sound, visual or audiovisual recording). The definition of ‘document’ is not intended to cover computer programmes.

(27) Public sector bodies are increasingly making their documents available for re-use in a proactive manner, **through open formats that can be machine-readable and in a format that ensures interoperability, re-use and accessibility**. Documents should also be made available for re-use following a request lodged by a re-user. **Member States**

\(^{1}\) C(2018)2375

should guarantee that practical arrangements are defined for ensuring that the re-use of public-sector information can be exercised effectively, with clear indications of where such documents can be found. The time limit for replying to requests for re-use should be reasonable and in accordance with the equivalent time for requests to access the document under the relevant access regimes. Educational establishments, research performing organisations and research funding organisations should however be exempt from this requirement. Reasonable time limits throughout the Union will stimulate the creation of new aggregated information products and services at pan-European level. This is particularly important for dynamic data (including environmental data, traffic data, satellite data, weather data), the economic value of which depends on the immediate availability of the information and of regular updates. Dynamic data should therefore be made available immediately after collection, without delay via an Application Programming Interface so as to facilitate the development of internet, mobile and cloud applications based on such data. Whenever this is not possible due to technical or financial constraints, public sector bodies should make the documents available in a timeframe that allows their full economic potential to be exploited. Specific measures should be taken in order to lift relevant technical and financial constraints. Should a licence be used, the timely availability of documents may be a part of the terms of the licence.

(28) In order to get access to the data opened for re-use by this Directive, it is useful to ensure access to dynamic data through well-designed Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). An API describes the kind of data can be retrieved, how to do this and the format in which the data will be received. APIs should be supported by clear technical documentation that is complete and available online. European or internationally recognised standards or other commonly-used protocols should be applied and international standards for datasets should be used where applicable. APIs can have different levels of complexity and can mean a simple link to a database to retrieve specific datasets, a structured web interface, or more complex set-ups. There is general value in re-using and sharing data via a suitable use of APIs as this will help developers and start-ups to create new services and products. It is also a crucial ingredient of creating valuable ecosystems around data assets whose potential remains largely unused by the data owners. The set-up and use of API needs to be based on several principles: stability, reliability, availability, efficiency, maintenance over
lifecycle, uniformity of use and standards, user-friendliness as well as security. For
dynamic data, meaning frequently updated data, often in real time, public sector bodies
and public undertakings shall make this available for re-use immediately after collection
by way of suitable APIs which need to be compatible with the FAIR principles. Public
sector bodies may receive efficient support in order to develop an adequate level of
competence in their services.

(29) The possibilities for re-use can be improved by limiting the need to digitise paper-based
documents or to process digital files to make them mutually compatible. Therefore,
public sector bodies should make documents available in any pre-existing format or
language, through electronic means where possible and appropriate. Public sector
bodies should view requests for extracts from existing documents favourably when to
grant such a request would involve only a simple operation. Public sector bodies should
not, however, be obliged to provide an extract from a document where this involves
disproportionate effort. To facilitate re-use, public sector bodies should make their own
documents available in a format which, as far as possible and appropriate, is not
dependent on the use of specific software, public sector bodies should take into account
the possibilities for the re-use of documents by and for persons with disabilities by
providing the information in accessible formats.

(30) To facilitate re-use, public sector bodies should, where possible and appropriate, make
documents, including those published on websites, available through open and machine-
readable formats and together with their metadata, at the best level of precision and
granularity, in a format that ensures interoperability, e.g. by processing them in a way
consistent with the principles governing the compatibility and usability requirements for
Council\(^1\).

(31) A document should be considered to be in a machine-readable format if it is in a file
format that is structured in such a way that software applications can easily identify,
recognise and, in a technologically neutral manner, extract specific data from it. Data

---

establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community
encoded in files that are structured in a machine-readable format should be considered to be machine-readable data. Machine-readable formats can be open or proprietary; they can be formal standards or not. Documents encoded in a file format that limits automatic processing, because the data cannot, or cannot easily, be extracted from them, should not be considered to be in a machine-readable format. Member States should where possible and appropriate encourage the use of open, machine-readable formats. Solutions developed by the ISA² programme should be taken into account in designing technical methods for re-use of data.

(32) Charges for the re-use of documents constitute an important market entry barrier for start-ups and SMEs. Documents should therefore be made available for re-use without charges and, where charges are necessary, they should in principle be limited to the marginal costs. In exceptional cases, the necessity of not hindering the normal running of public sector bodies that are required to generate revenue to cover a substantial part of their costs relating to the performance of their public tasks should be taken into consideration. The role of public undertakings in a competitive economic environment should also be acknowledged. In such cases, public sector bodies and public undertakings should therefore be able to charge above marginal costs. Those charges should be set according to objective, transparent and verifiable criteria and the total income from supplying and allowing re-use of documents should not exceed the cost of collection, production, reproduction, dissemination and maintenance, together with a reasonable return on investment. Where applicable, the costs of anonymisation of personal data or of commercially sensitive information should also be included in the eligible cost. The requirement to generate revenue to cover a substantial part of the public sector bodies’ costs relating to the performance of their public tasks or the scope of the services of general interest entrusted with public undertakings does not have to be a legal requirement and may stem, for example, from administrative practices in Member States. Such a requirement should be regularly reviewed by the Member States.

(32a) The return on investment can be understood as a percentage, in addition to marginal costs, allowing for the recovery of the cost of capital and the inclusion of a real rate of return. As the cost of capital is closely linked to credit institutions’ interest rates, themselves based on the ECB’s fixed rate on main refinancing operations, the
reasonable return on investment should not be expected to be more than 5 % above the ECB's fixed interest rate.

(33) Libraries, museums and archives should also be able to charge above marginal costs in order not to hinder their normal running. In the case of such public sector bodies the total income from supplying and allowing re-use of documents over the appropriate accounting period should not exceed the cost of collection, production, reproduction, dissemination, maintenance, preservation and rights clearance, together with a reasonable return on investment. Where applicable, the costs of anonymisation of personal data or of commercially sensitive information should also be included in the eligible cost. For the purpose of libraries, museums and archives and bearing in mind their particularities, the prices charged by the private sector for the re-use of identical or similar documents could be considered when calculating a reasonable return on investment. Such charges above marginal costs should be set according to transparent, traceable and verifiable criteria.

(34) The upper limits for charges set in this Directive are without prejudice to the right of Member States to apply lower charges or no charges at all.

(35) Member States should lay down the criteria for charging above marginal costs. In this respect, Member States, for example, may lay down such criteria in national rules or may designate the appropriate body or appropriate bodies, other than the public sector body itself, competent to lay down such criteria. That body should be organised in accordance with the constitutional and legal systems of the Member States. It could be an existing body with budgetary executive powers and under political responsibility.

(36) Ensuring that the conditions for re-use of public sector documents are clear and publicly available is a pre-condition for the development of a Union-wide information market. Therefore all applicable conditions for the re-use of the documents should be made clear to the potential re-users. Member States should encourage the creation of indices accessible on line, where appropriate, of available documents so as to promote and facilitate requests for re-use. Applicants for re-use of documents held by entities other than educational establishments, research performing organisations and research funding organisations should be informed of available means of redress relating to decisions or practices affecting them. This will be particularly important for SMEs and
**start-ups** which may not be familiar with interactions with public sector bodies from other Member States and corresponding means of redress.

(37) The means of redress should include the possibility of review by an impartial review body. That body could be an already existing national authority, such as the national competition authority, **the national supervisory authority set up pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679**, the national access to documents authority or a national judicial authority. That body should be organised in accordance with the constitutional and legal systems of Member States and should not prejudge any means of redress otherwise available to applicants for **access to and re-use**. It should however be distinct from the Member State mechanism laying down the criteria for charging above marginal costs. The means of redress should include the possibility of review of negative decisions but also of decisions which, although permitting re-use, could still affect applicants on other grounds, notably by the charging rules applied. The review process should be swift, in accordance with the needs of a rapidly changing market.

(38) Making public all generally available documents held by the public sector — concerning not only the political process but also the legal and administrative process — is a fundamental instrument for extending the right to knowledge, which is a basic principle of democracy. This objective is applicable to institutions at every level, be it local, national or international.

(39) In some cases the re-use of documents will take place without a licence being agreed. In other cases a licence will be issued imposing conditions on the re-use by the licensee dealing with issues such as liability, **the protection of personal data**, the proper use of documents, guaranteeing non-alteration and the acknowledgement of source. If public sector bodies license documents for re-use, the licence conditions should be fair and transparent. Standard licences that are available online may also play an important role in this respect. Therefore Member States should provide for the availability of standard licences.

---

(40) If the competent authority decides to no longer make available certain documents for re-use, or to cease updating these documents, it should make these decisions publicly known, at the earliest opportunity, via electronic means whenever possible.

(41) Conditions for re-use should be non-discriminatory for comparable categories of re-use. **Member States should guarantee fair competition between public sector bodies and public undertakings on the one hand, and other users on the other, in cases where documents are re-used by those public sector bodies or public undertakings as input for their commercial activities.** Member States should in particular ensure that re-use of documents of public undertakings does not lead to market distortion and that fair competition is not undermined. This should, for example, not prevent the exchange of information between public sector bodies free of charge for the exercise of public tasks, whilst other parties are charged for the re-use of the same documents. Neither should it prevent the adoption of a differentiated charging policy for commercial and non-commercial re-use, **and the adoption of a differentiated licencing and charging policy when an economic player wishes to re-use documents in specific commercial conditions.**

(42) In relation to any re-use that is made of the document, public sector bodies may impose conditions, where appropriate through a licence, such as acknowledgment of source and acknowledgment of whether the document has been modified by the re-user in any way. Any licences for the re-use of public sector information should in any event place as few restrictions on re-use as possible, for example limiting them to an indication of source. **Open licences available online, which grant wider re-use rights without technological, financial or geographical limitations and relying on open data formats, should play an important role in this respect.** Therefore, Member States should encourage the use of open licences that should eventually become common practice across the Union.

(43) Public sector bodies should respect competition rules when establishing the principles for re-use of documents avoiding as far as possible exclusive agreements or any preferential use of the data between themselves and private partners. However, in order to provide a service of general economic interest, an exclusive right to re-use specific
public sector documents may sometimes be necessary. This may be the case if no commercial publisher would publish the information without such an exclusive right.

(44) There are numerous cooperation arrangements between libraries, including university libraries, museums, archives and private partners which involve digitisation of cultural resources granting exclusive rights to private partners. Practice has shown that such public-private partnerships can facilitate worthwhile use of cultural collections and at the same time accelerate access to the cultural heritage for members of the public. It is therefore appropriate to take into account current divergences in the Member States with regard to digitisation of cultural resources, by a specific set of rules pertaining to agreements on digitisation of such resources. Where an exclusive right relates to digitisation of cultural resources, a certain period of exclusivity might be necessary in order to give the private partner the possibility to recover induced costs. That period should, however, be limited in time and as short as possible, in order to respect the principle that public domain material should stay in the public domain once it is digitised. The period of an exclusive right to digitise cultural resources should in general not exceed 10 years. Any period of exclusivity longer than 10 years should be subject to review, taking into account technological, financial and administrative changes in the environment since the arrangement was entered into. In addition, any public private partnership for the digitisation of cultural resources should grant the partner cultural institution full rights with respect to the post-termination use of digitised cultural resources.

(45) Arrangements between data holders and data re-users which do not expressly grant exclusive rights but which can reasonably be expected to restrict the availability of documents for re-use should be subject to additional public scrutiny and should therefore be published at least two months before coming into effect so as to give interested parties an opportunity to request the re-use of the documents covered by the agreement and prevent the risk of restricting the range of potential re-users. Such agreements should also be made public following their conclusion, in the final form agreed by the parties.

(46) This Directive aims at minimising the risk of excessive first-mover advantage that could limit the number of potential re-users of the data. Where contractual arrangements may,
in addition to the Member State's obligations under this Directive to grant documents, entail a transfer of Member State's resources within the meaning of Article 107(1) TFEU, this Directive should be without prejudice to the application of the State aid and other competition rules laid down in Articles 101 to 109 of the Treaty. It follows from the State aid rules laid down in Articles 107 to 109 of the Treaty that the State must verify ex ante whether State aid may be involved in the relevant contractual arrangement and ensure that they comply with State aid rules.

(47) This Directive is without prejudice and should be implemented and applied in full compliance with Union law relating to the protection of personal data including Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. All obligations arising from this Directive should be fulfilled guaranteeing the protection of privacy and personal data in respect with the Union data protection legislation, including in cross-border data reuse, by ensuring the anonymisation of the personal data. Anonymisation is fundamental to ensuring the re-use of public sector information within the rules and obligations to protect personal data under data protection legislation, even if it comes at a cost. It is appropriate to consider this cost as one of the cost items to be considered as part of the marginal cost of dissemination as defined in Article 6 of this Directive.

(47a) Anonymous information should mean any information that cannot be related, directly or indirectly, alone or in combination with associated data, to a natural person or personal data rendered anonymous in such a manner that a data subject is no longer identifiable. Moreover, when taking decisions on the scope and conditions for the re-use of public sector documents containing personal data, the organisations subject to this Directive should perform data protection impact assessments before making the document public. This should be done in particular for specific sectors routinely

---

1 Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) […].

dealing with special categories of personal data, such as health sector, or other personal data referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679. In order to properly address the concerns related to the necessary protection of personal data such data protection impact assessment should be conducted in accordance with Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

(48) The intellectual property rights of third parties are not affected by this Directive. For the avoidance of doubt, the term ‘intellectual property rights’ refers to copyright and related rights only (including *sui generis* forms of protection). This Directive does not apply to documents covered by industrial property rights, such as patents, registered designs and trademarks. The Directive does not affect the existence or ownership of intellectual property rights of public sector bodies, nor does it limit the exercise of these rights in any way beyond the boundaries set by this Directive. The obligations imposed by this Directive should apply only insofar as they are compatible with the provisions of international agreements on the protection of intellectual property rights, in particular the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (the Berne Convention) and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the TRIPS Agreement). Public sector bodies should, however, exercise their copyright in a way that facilitates re-use.

(49) Taking into account Union law and the international obligations of Member States and of the Union, particularly under the Berne Convention and the TRIPS Agreement, documents for which third parties hold intellectual property rights should be excluded from the scope of this Directive. If a third party was the initial owner of the intellectual property rights for a document held by libraries, including university libraries, museums and archives and the term of protection of those rights has not expired, that document should, for the purpose of this Directive, be considered as a document for which third parties hold intellectual property rights.

(50) This Directive should be without prejudice to the rights, including economic and moral rights that employees of public sector bodies may enjoy under national rules.

(51) Moreover, where any document is made available for re-use, the public sector body concerned should retain the right to exploit the document.

Tools that help potential re-users to find documents available for re-use and the conditions for re-use can facilitate considerably the cross-border use of public sector documents. Member States should therefore ensure that practical arrangements are in place that help re-users in their search for documents available for re-use. Assets lists, accessible preferably online, of main documents (documents that are extensively re-used or that have the potential to be extensively re-used), and portal sites that are linked to decentralised assets lists are examples of such practical arrangements.

The Commission and the Member States should further simplify the access to datasets, in particular by providing a single point of access and progressively make available suitable datasets from public sector bodies with regard to all documents to which this Directive applies as well as to data from Union institutions.

This Directive is without prejudice to Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive 96/9/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. It spells out the conditions within which public sector bodies can exercise their intellectual property rights in the internal information market when allowing re-use of documents. The right provided for in Article 7(1) of Directive 96/9/EC should not be exercised to prevent or restrict re-use of existing documents beyond the limits set by this Directive.

The Commission has supported the development of an online Open Data Maturity Report with relevant performance indicators for the re-use of public sector information in all the Member States. A regular update of this report will contribute to the exchange of information between the Member States and the availability of information on policies and practices across the Union.

---


It is necessary to ensure that the Member States monitor the extent of the re-use of public sector information, the conditions under which it is made available and the redress practices.

The Commission may assist the Member States in implementing this Directive in a consistent way by issuing and updating existing guidelines, particularly on recommended standard licences, datasets and charging for the re-use of documents, after consulting interested parties.

One of the principal aims of the establishment of the internal market is the creation of conditions conducive to the development of Union-wide services, to which all citizens should have access. Libraries, museums and archives hold a significant amount of valuable public sector information resources. The re-use of documents held by such institutions possesses substantial social and economic potential for cultural and creative industries, as well as for society, in particular since digitisation projects have multiplied the amount of digital public domain material, which is accessible on platforms such as Europeana. These cultural heritage collections and related metadata are a potential base for digital content products and services and have a huge potential for innovative re-use not only for the cultural and creative sectors, but also in other sectors such as learning and tourism. Other types of cultural establishments (such as orchestras, operas, ballets and theatres), including the archives that are part of those establishments, should remain outside the scope because of their ‘performing arts’ specificity and the fact that almost all of their material is subject to third-party intellectual property rights and would therefore remain outside the scope of that Directive.

In order to set in place conditions supporting the re-use of documents which is associated with important socio-economic benefits having a particular high value for economy and society, a list of categories of high value datasets is included in Annex IIa. The power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in order to supplement the list of categories for high value datasets in Annex IIa by adding new categories and their respective datasets to the list of high-value datasets among the documents to which this Directive applies, along with the modalities of their publication and re-use. It is of
particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

(59) An EU-wide list of datasets with a particular potential to generate socio-economic benefits together with harmonised re-use conditions constitutes an important enabler of cross-border data applications and services. *Annex IIa provides a list of categories of high value datasets which could be supplemented by a delegated act. The additional categories and their respective datasets for* the list should take into account sectoral legislation that already regulates the publication of datasets, as well as the categories indicated in the Technical Annex of the G8 Open Data Charter and in the Commission's Notice 2014/C 240/01. *In the process leading to the identification of additional categories for the list, the Commission should carry out an impact assessment and appropriate public consultations, including at expert level. For the purposes of the impact assessment, the Commission should carry out public consultations with all interested parties, including public sector bodies, undertakings, data users and re-users, research organisations, civil society groups and representative organisations. All interested parties should be given the possibility to submit suggestions to the Commission for additional categories of high value datasets or concrete datasets. The Commission should take these into account or provide the interested party concerned with reasons for not adopting the suggestion.*

(60) In view of ensuring their maximum impact and to facilitate re-use, the high-value datasets should be made available for re-use with minimal legal restrictions and at no cost. They should also be published via Application Programming Interfaces, whenever the dataset in question contains dynamic data.

(60a) *Given the high risk of current technological formats for storing and giving access to public sector information becoming obsolete, public authorities – in particular in the case of high-value datasets – should implement effective long-term preservation*
policies to ensure the usage possibilities into the future.

Since the objectives of this Directive, namely to facilitate the creation of Union-wide information products and services based on public sector documents, to ensure the effective cross-border use of public sector documents on the one hand by private companies, particularly by small and medium-sized enterprises, for added-value information products and services, and on the other hand by citizens to facilitate the free circulation of information and communication, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can rather, by reasons of the pan-European scope of the proposed action, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

This Directive respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, including the right to privacy (Article 7), the protection of personal data (Article 8), the right to property (Article 17) and the integration of persons with disabilities (Article 26). Nothing in this Directive should be interpreted or implemented in a manner that is inconsistent with the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The European Data Protection Supervisor delivered an Opinion 5/2018 on 10 July 2018 pursuant to Article 41(2) of Regulation (EC) 45/2001.¹

The Commission should carry out an evaluation of this Directive. Pursuant to paragraph 22 of the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016², that evaluation should be based on the five criteria of efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, coherence and EU value added and should provide the basis for impact assessments of possible further measures.

(64) The obligation to transpose this Directive into national law should be confined to those provisions which represent a substantive amendment as compared to the earlier Directives. The obligation to transpose the provisions which are unchanged arises under the earlier Directives.

(65) This Directive should be without prejudice to the obligations of the Member States relating to the time-limit for the transposition into national law of the Directives set out in Annex I, Part B.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter and scope

This Directive aims at establishing a regulatory framework governing the re-use of public sector information in order to promote the use of open data and stimulate innovation in products and services.

1. This Directive establishes a minimum set of rules governing the re-use and the practical means of facilitating re-use of:

(a) existing documents held by public sector bodies of the Member States;

(b) existing documents access to which is not excluded or restricted under Article 1(2), held by public undertakings active in the areas defined in Directive 2014/25/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council \(^1\) and by public undertakings acting as public service operators


(ba) existing documents held by private undertakings produced in the performance of a service of general economic interest in the areas referred to in point (b).

(c) research data, pursuant to conditions set out in Article 10(1) and (2).

2. This Directive shall not apply to:

(a) documents the supply of which is an activity falling outside the scope of the public task of the public sector bodies concerned as defined by law or by other binding rules in the Member State, or in the absence of such rules, as defined in line with common administrative practice in the Member State in question, provided that the scope of the public tasks is transparent and subject to review;

(b) documents held by public undertakings:

- produced outside the scope of the provision of services in the general interest as defined by law or other binding rules in the Member State;

- related to the activities directly exposed to competition and, pursuant to Article 34 of Directive 2014/25/EU, not subject to procurement rules;


access to which is excluded or restricted in order to ensure the security of the network and information systems pursuant to Directive (EU) 2016/1148;

c) documents for which third parties hold intellectual property rights;

d) documents which are excluded from access by virtue of the access regimes in the Member States, including on the grounds of:

   the protection of national security (that is to say, State security), defence, or public security,

   statistical confidentiality,

   commercial confidentiality (including business, professional or company secrets);

(da) documents access to which is excluded or restricted on the grounds of protection of sensitive critical infrastructure information as defined in point (d) of Article 2 of Directive 2008/114/EC.

e) documents access to which is restricted by virtue of the access regimes in the Member States, including cases whereby citizens or companies have to prove a particular interest to obtain access to documents;

(f) parts of documents containing only logos, crests and insignia;

(g) documents or parts of documents access to which is excluded or restricted by access regimes on the grounds of protection of personal data, or which contain personal data the re-use of which could undermine the protection of privacy and integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance with Union legislation regarding the protection of personal data;

(h) documents held by public service broadcasters and their subsidiaries, and by other bodies or their subsidiaries for the fulfilment of a public service broadcasting remit;

(i) documents held by cultural establishments other than libraries, university libraries, museums and archives;
(j) documents held by educational establishments of secondary level and below and, in case of all other educational establishments, documents other than those referred to in Article 1(1)(c);

(k) documents other than those referred to in Article 1(1)(c) held by research performing organisations and research funding organisations, including organisations established for the transfer of research results.

3. This Directive builds on and is without prejudice to access regimes in the Member States.

3a. This Directive is without prejudice to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and does not affect the level of protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data under that regulation and other Union law.

4. The obligations imposed by this Directive shall apply only insofar as they are compatible with the provisions of international agreements on the protection of intellectual property rights, in particular the Berne Convention and the TRIPS Agreement.

5. The right for the maker of a database provided for in Article 7(1) of Directive 96/9/EC shall not be exercised by public sector bodies in order to prevent or restrict the re-use of documents beyond the limits of this Directive.

6. This Directive governs the re-use of existing documents held by public sector bodies of the Member States, including documents to which Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council\(^1\) applies.

\[Article 2\]

\[Definitions\]

For the purpose of this Directive the following definitions shall apply:

\[\]

1. ‘public sector body’ means the State, regional or local authorities, bodies governed by public law and associations formed by one or several such authorities or one or several such bodies governed by public law;

2. ‘body governed by public law’ means any body:

   (a) established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character; and

   (b) having legal personality; and

   (c) financed, for the most part by the State, or regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law; or subject to management supervision by those bodies; or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law;

3. 'public undertaking' means any undertaking over which the public sector bodies may exercise directly or indirectly a dominant influence by virtue of their ownership of it, their financial participation therein, or the rules which govern it;

   A dominant influence on the part of the public sector bodies shall be presumed when such public sector bodies, directly or indirectly in relation to an undertaking:

   (i) hold the majority of the undertaking’s subscribed capital;

   (ii) control the majority of the votes attached to shares issued by the undertakings; or

   (iii) can appoint more than half of the members of the undertaking’s administrative, managerial or supervisory body;

4. ‘university’ means any public sector body that provides post-secondary-school higher education leading to academic degrees;

4a. ‘open license’ means any standardised public license that allows data and content to be freely accessed, used, modified, and shared by anyone for any purpose, subject, at most, to requirements that preserve provenance and openness;
5. ‘document’ means:

(a) any content whatever its medium (written on paper or stored in electronic form or as a sound, visual or audiovisual recording);

(b) any part of such content;

5b. ‘anonymous information’ or ‘anonymised information’ means information which does not relate to an identified or identifiable natural person or personal data rendered anonymous in such a manner that the data subject is not or no longer identifiable;

6. ‘dynamic data’ means documents in an electronic form, that change often or on a regular basis;

6a. ‘application programming interface’ (API) means a well-documented set of functions, procedures, definitions and protocols for the structured retrieval of information online;

7. ‘research data’ means documents in a digital form, other than scientific publications, which are collected or produced in the course of scientific research activities and are used as evidence in the research process, or are commonly accepted in the research community as necessary to validate research findings and results;

8. ‘high value datasets’ means documents the re-use of which is associated with important benefits for society, the environment and the economy, notably because of their suitability for the creation of value-added services, applications and new, quality and decent work, and the number of potential beneficiaries of the value-added services and applications based on these datasets;

9. ‘re-use’ means the use by persons or legal entities of documents held by public sector bodies, for commercial or non-commercial purposes other than the initial purpose within the public task for which the documents were produced, except exchange of documents between public sector bodies purely in pursuit of their public tasks;

9a. ‘personal data’ means data as defined in point (a) of Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679;
10. ‘machine-readable format’ means a file format structured so that software applications can easily identify, recognize and extract specific data, including individual statements of fact, and their internal structure;

11. ‘open format’ means a file format that is platform-independent and made available to the public without any restriction that impedes the re-use of documents;

12. ‘formal open standard’ means a standard which has been laid down in written form, detailing specifications for the requirements on how to ensure software interoperability;

13. 'reasonable return on investment' means a percentage of the overall charge, in addition to that needed to recover the eligible costs, not exceeding 5 percentage points above the fixed interest rate of the European Central Bank;

14. ‘third party’ means any natural or legal person other than a public sector body, a public undertaking or a private undertaking as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) that holds the data.

Article 3

General principle

1. Member States shall ensure that documents to which this Directive applies in accordance with Article 1 shall be re-usable for commercial or non-commercial purposes in accordance with the conditions set out in Chapters III and IV.

2. For documents in which libraries, including university libraries, museums and archives hold intellectual property rights and for documents held by public undertakings, Member States shall ensure that, where the re-use of such documents is allowed by the public undertaking or private undertaking as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) which produced them, these documents shall be re-usable for commercial or non-commercial purposes in accordance with the conditions set out in Chapters III and IV.

2a. Member States shall ensure that documents falling within the scope of this Directive are produced and made available for re-use according to the principle of "open by design"
and by default".

2b. Member States shall provide that, when taking decisions on the scope and conditions for the re-use of documents, the organisations subject to this Directive, shall perform data protection impact assessments, in particular for specific sectors routinely dealing with special categories of personal data, such as health sector, or other personal data referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679. Such data protection impact assessment shall be carried out in accordance with Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.
CHAPTER II

REQUESTS FOR RE-USE

Article 4

Requirements applicable to the processing of requests for re-use

1. Public sector bodies, public undertakings and private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) shall, through electronic means where possible and appropriate, process requests for re-use and shall make the document available for re-use to the applicant or, if a licence is needed, finalise the licence offer to the applicant within a reasonable time that is consistent with the time-frames laid down for the processing of requests for access to documents.

1a. The decision whether or not to authorise re-use of any or all documents under this Directive shall remain with the public undertaking or private undertaking as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) concerned. After the undertaking has chosen to make a document available for re-use, it shall observe the relevant obligations laid down in Chapters III and IV, in particular as regards format, charging, transparency, licences, non-discrimination and the prohibition of exclusive arrangements.

2. Where no time limits or other rules regulating the timely provision of documents have been established, public sector bodies, public undertakings and private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) shall process the request and shall deliver the documents for re-use to the applicant or, if a licence is needed, finalise the licence offer to the applicant as soon as possible or, at the latest, within a timeframe of not more than 20 working days after its receipt. This timeframe may be extended by another 20 working days for extensive or complex requests. In such cases the applicant shall be notified as soon as possible, and in any case within three weeks after the initial request that more time is needed to process it and of the reasons for it.

3. In the event of a negative decision, the public sector bodies, public undertakings or
private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) shall communicate the grounds for refusal to the applicant on the basis of the relevant provisions of the access regime in that Member State or of the national provisions adopted pursuant to this Directive, in particular points (a) to (g) of Article 1(2) or Article 3. Where a negative decision is based on point (c) of Article 1(2), the public sector body, public undertaking or private undertaking as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) shall include a reference to the natural or legal person who is the rightholder, where known, or alternatively to the licensor from which the public sector body has obtained the relevant material. Libraries, including university libraries, museums and archives shall not be required to include such a reference.

4. Any decision on re-use shall contain a reference to the means of redress in case the applicant wishes to appeal the decision. The means of redress shall include the possibility of review by an impartial review body with the appropriate expertise, such as the national competition authority, the national supervisory authority set up in accordance with Article 51 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the national access to documents authority or a national judicial authority, whose decisions are binding upon the public sector body concerned.

4a. For the purposes of this Article, Member States shall ensure that:

(a) support is granted in seeking access to documents;

(b) lists of public sector bodies, public undertakings and private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) are publicly accessible;

(c) practical arrangements are defined for ensuring that the re-use of public-sector information can be exercised effectively;

(d) public sector bodies public undertakings and private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) inform the public adequately of the rights they enjoy on the basis of this Directive and as a result of existing access to information rules, laid down at national or at Union level, and to an appropriate extent provide information, guidance and advice to this end.
5. The following entities shall not be required to comply with the requirements of this Article:

(b) educational establishments, research performing organisations and research funding organisations.

CHAPTER III

CONDITIONS FOR RE-USE

Article 5

Available formats

1. Without prejudice to Chapter V, public sector bodies, public undertakings, and private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1), shall make their documents available in forms or formats that are accessible, readily findable and re-usable by electronic means, in any pre-existing language, and, where possible and appropriate, in open and machine-readable format together with their metadata. Both the format and the metadata shall, where possible, comply with formal open standards.

2. As long as the re-users have any possibility to re-use the requested documents, paragraph 1 shall not imply an obligation for public sector bodies, private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1), or public undertakings to create or adapt documents or provide extracts in order to comply with that paragraph where this would involve disproportionate effort, going beyond a simple operation.

3. On the basis of this Directive, public sector bodies, private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1), and public undertakings cannot be required to continue the production and storage of a certain type of documents with a view to the re-use of such documents by a private or public sector organisation.
4. Public sector bodies, public undertakings and private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1), shall make dynamic data available for re-use immediately after collection via suitable Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). To ensure the sustained supply of dynamic data, public sector bodies may receive support under relevant Union programmes.

5. Where making available documents immediately after collection and without delay would exceed the financial and technical capacities of the public sector body, the private undertaking as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1), or the public undertaking, documents referred to in paragraph 4 shall be made available in a timeframe that does not unduly impair the exploitation of their economic and social potential.

5a. Public sector bodies, public undertakings and private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) shall ensure that access to and re-use of public sector information comply with the Union data protection legislation.

Article 6

Principles governing charging

1. Re-use of documents shall be free of charge or limited to the marginal costs incurred for their reproduction, provision and dissemination, and – where applicable – anonymisation of personal data and measures taken to protect commercially confidential information.

2. By way of exception, paragraph 1 shall not apply to the following:

   (a) public sector bodies that are required to generate revenue to cover a substantial part of their costs relating to the performance of their public tasks;

   (aa) documents for which the public sector body concerned is required to generate sufficient revenue to cover a substantial part of the costs relating to their collection, production, reproduction and dissemination;

   (b) libraries, including university libraries, museums and archives;
(c) public undertakings;

**(ca) private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1).**

3. In the cases referred to in points (a) and (c) of paragraph 2, the total charges shall be calculated according to objective, transparent and verifiable criteria to be laid down by the Member States. The total income from supplying and allowing re-use of documents over the appropriate accounting period shall not exceed the cost of collection, production, reproduction and dissemination, data storage and – where applicable – anonymisation of personal data and measures taken to protect commercially confidential information, together with a reasonable return on investment. Charges shall be calculated in line with the applicable accounting principles.

4. Where charges are made by the public sector bodies referred to in point (b) of paragraph 2, the total income from supplying and allowing re-use of documents over the appropriate accounting period shall not exceed the cost of collection, production, reproduction, dissemination, data storage, preservation and rights clearance and – where applicable – anonymisation of personal data and measures taken to protect commercially confidential information, together with a reasonable return on investment. Charges shall be calculated in line with the accounting principles applicable to the public sector bodies involved.

5. The re-use of high value datasets, the list of which shall be defined in accordance with Article 13 and Annex IIa, and of research data referred to in point (c) of Article 1(1) shall be free of charge for the user.

*Article 7*

**Transparency**

-1a. Member States may disclose the costs to be incurred for the reproduction, dissemination and data storage of documents, as well as, where applicable, costs for the anonymisation of personal data and costs for measures to protect confidentiality as referred
to in point (d) of Article 1(2).

1. In the case of standard charges for the re-use of documents or parts of documents, any applicable conditions and the actual amount of those charges, including the calculation basis for such charges, shall be pre-established and published, through electronic means where possible and appropriate.

2. In the case of charges for the re-use other than those referred to in paragraph 1, the factors that are taken into account in the calculation of those charges shall be indicated at the outset. Upon request, the holder of documents in question shall also indicate the way in which such charges have been calculated in relation to the specific re-use request.

3. Member States shall publish a list of public sector bodies referred to in point (a) of Article 6(2).

4. Public sector bodies shall ensure that applicants for re-use of documents are informed of available means of redress relating to decisions or practices affecting them.

Article 8

Licences

1. Member States shall not make the re-use of documents subject to conditions, or a licence, unless the need for such conditions or licence is non-discriminatory, justified by a public interest objective and proportionate.

2. In Member States where licences are used, Member States shall ensure that standard licences for the re-use of public sector documents, which can be adapted to meet particular licence applications, are available in digital format and can be processed electronically. Member States shall encourage the use of such standard licences.

2a. Without prejudice to liability requirements, laid down in Union law, where a public
body, a public undertaking or a private undertaking as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) makes documents available for re-use without any conditions and restrictions, that public body, public undertaking or a private undertaking as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) shall be allowed to waive all liability with regards to the documents made available for re-use.

Article 9

Practical arrangements

1. Member States shall make practical arrangements facilitating the search for documents available for re-use, such as asset lists of main documents with relevant metadata, accessible where possible and appropriate online and in machine-readable format, and portal sites that are linked to the asset lists. Where possible Member States shall facilitate the cross-linguistic search for documents.

1a. Member States shall ensure that public sector bodies, public undertakings and private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) provide the Commission with necessary access to all data they make available for re-use to allow for an aggregation of datasets at Union level, in particular to provide full coverage datasets for the Union for a particular category of data as set out in Annex IIa. The Commission shall make practical arrangements to make available datasets at Union level through a single point of access.

Article 10

Availability and re-use of research data

1. Member States shall support the availability of research data by adopting national policies and relevant actions aiming at making publicly funded research data openly available ('open access policies') and compatible with the FAIR principles. All publicly-funded research data should be made open by default. In this context, concerns relating to IPR, personal data protection and confidentiality, security and legitimate commercial interests, shall be taken into account in accordance with the principle “as open as possible, as closed as necessary”. These open access policies shall be addressed to research performing organisations and research funding organisations. Research funding schemes financed from the Union budget shall
oblige all beneficiaries to make their research data openly available for re-use in line with the Horizon Europe.

2. Research data shall be re-usable for commercial or non-commercial purposes under the conditions set out in Chapters III and IV, insofar as they are publicly funded and whenever access to such data is provided through institutional or subject-based repositories or any local, national or international data infrastructure. In this context, legitimate commercial interests, knowledge transfer activities and pre-existing intellectual property rights shall be taken into account. This provision shall be without prejudice to point (c) of Article 1(2).

CHAPTER IV

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND FAIR TRADING

Article 11

Non-discrimination

1. Any applicable conditions for the re-use of documents shall be non-discriminatory for comparable categories of re-use, including for cross-border re-use.

2. Member States shall guarantee fair competition between public sector bodies, public undertakings and private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1), and other users, in cases where documents are re-used by those public sector bodies, public undertakings or private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) as input for their commercial activities which fall outside the scope of their public tasks, by ensuring that the same charges and other conditions shall apply to the supply of the documents for those activities as apply to other users.

2a. Member States shall ensure in the same way that re-use of documents and information of public undertakings or private undertaking as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1) does not lead to distortion of fair competition.
Article 12

Prohibition of exclusive arrangements

1. To ensure fairness, the re-use of documents shall be open to all potential users in the market, even if one or more users already exploit added-value products based on these documents. Contracts or other arrangements between the public sector bodies, private undertakings as referred to in point (ba) of Article 1(1), or public undertakings holding the documents and third parties shall not grant exclusive rights, or allow any preferential use of the data. Public service excluded from the scope of Directive 2014/24/EU pursuant to Article 11 of that Directive and innovation partnerships as referred to in Article 31 of Directive 2014/24/EU shall be taken into account.

2. However, where an exclusive right is necessary for the provision of a service in the public interest, the validity of the reason for granting such an exclusive right shall be subject to regular review, and shall, in any event, be reviewed every three years. The exclusive arrangements established after the entry into force of this Directive shall be made publicly available at least two months before their coming into effect. The final terms of such arrangements shall be transparent and made publicly available.

   This paragraph shall not apply to digitisation of cultural resources.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, where an exclusive right relates to digitisation of cultural resources, the period of exclusivity shall in general not exceed 10 years. In case where that period exceeds 10 years, its duration shall be subject to review during the 11th year and, if applicable, every seven years thereafter.

   The arrangements granting exclusive rights referred to in the first subparagraph shall be transparent and made public.

   In the case of an exclusive right referred to in the first subparagraph, the public sector body concerned shall be provided free of charge with a copy of the digitised cultural resources as part of those arrangements. That copy shall be available for re-use at the end of the period of exclusivity.
4. Legal or practical arrangements that, without expressly granting an exclusive right, aim at or could reasonably be expected to lead to a restricted availability for re-use of documents by entities other than the third party participating in the arrangement, shall be made publicly available at least two months before their coming into effect. **Those legal or practical arrangements shall be subject to regular reviews and shall, in any event, be reviewed every three years.** The final terms of such arrangements shall be transparent and made publicly available, **with due consideration to competition.**

5. Exclusive arrangements existing on 17 July 2013 that do not qualify for the exceptions under paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be terminated at the end of the contract or in any event not later than 18 July 2043.

**Article 12 a (new)**

**Preservation of Public Sector Information**

**Member States shall ensure the implementation of meaningful preservation policies for public sector information in any format which offers the best possible guarantees of long-term access.**

**CHAPTER V**

**HIGH VALUE DATASETS**

**Article 13**

**List of high value datasets**

1. With a view to achieving the objectives of this Directive, a list of categories and high value datasets is set out in Annex II a. The Commission shall **be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 14 in order to supplement the list by adding new categories and their respective datasets to** the list of high value datasets among the documents to which
this Directive applies, together with the modalities of their publication and re-use.

2. These datasets shall be available for free, machine-readable and accessible for download, and where appropriate, via APIs. The conditions for re-use shall be compatible with open standard licences.

3. By way of exception, the free availability referred to in paragraph 2 shall not apply to high-value datasets of public undertakings if the impact assessment referred to in Article 13(7) shows that making the datasets available for free will lead to a distortion of competition in the respective markets.

5. The list of categories and their respective high value datasets referred to in paragraph 1 is based on the assessment of their potential to generate significant social, economic, or environmental benefits, innovative services, the number of users, in particular SMEs, the revenues they may help generate, their potential for being combined with other datasets and the expected impact on the competitive situation of public undertakings.

6. The list in Annex IIa may, where appropriate, be supplemented by means of a delegated act; The Commission may supplement the list in Annex IIa by adding new categories and their respective high value datasets by means of a delegated act in accordance with Article 290 of the TFEU and subject to the procedure laid down in Article 14.

7. The Commission shall conduct an impact assessment including a cost-benefit analysis prior to the adoption of a delegated act and ensure that the act is complementary to the existing sector based legal instruments with respect to the re-use of documents that belong to the scope of application of this Directive. Where categories of high value datasets might concern public undertakings, the impact assessment shall give special consideration to possible distortions in competition and to the role of public undertakings, SMEs and start-ups in a competitive economic environment.

7a. For the purpose of paragraphs 1, 2 and 7, the Commission shall carry out public consultations with all interested parties including competent bodies holding public sector information, social partners, users and re-users, applicants for the use and re-use, and civil
society groups. All interested parties shall be given the possibility to submit suggestions to the Commission for additional categories of high-value datasets or concrete datasets. The Commission shall take those suggestions into account, or provide the interested party with reasons for not adopting the suggestion.

For the purposes of paragraph 2, the Commission shall take into account potential effects on competition where public undertakings operate in competitive markets.

CHAPTER VI

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 14

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 13 shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of five years from [date of entry into force of the Directive]. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than nine months before the end of the five-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.

3. The delegation of power referred to in Article 13 may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

4. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each
Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making.

5. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 13 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of **three** months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by **three** months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

*Article 15*

**Transposition**

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with Articles […] by […]. They shall forthwith inform immediately communicate the text of those measures to the Commission.

When Member States adopt those measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication. They shall also include a statement that references in existing laws, regulations and administrative provisions to the Directives repealed by this Directive shall be construed as references to this Directive. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made and how that statement is to be formulated.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.
Article 16

Evaluation

1. No sooner than four years after the date of transposition of this Directive, the Commission shall carry out an evaluation of this Directive and present a Report on the main findings to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee. The evaluation shall be conducted according to the Commission's better regulation Guidelines\(^1\). Member States shall provide the Commission with the information necessary for the preparation of that Report.

2. The evaluation shall in particular address the scope and the social and economic impact of this Directive, including the extent of the increase in re-use of public sector documents to which this Directive applies, especially by SMEs, the impact of the high-value datasets, the effects of the principles applied to charging and the re-use of official texts of a legislative and administrative nature, the re-use of documents held by other entities than public sector bodies, the availability and the use of APIs, the interaction between data protection rules and re-use possibilities, as well as further possibilities of improving the proper functioning of the internal market, supporting economic and labour market development.

Article 17

Repeal

Directive 2003/98/EC, as amended by the Directive listed in Annex I, Part A, is repealed with effect from [day after the date in the first subparagraph of Article 15(1)], without prejudice to the obligations of the Member States relating to the time-limits for the transposition into national law and the date of application of the Directives set out in Annex I, Part B.

References to the repealed Directive shall be construed as references to this Directive and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table in Annex II.

---

\(^1\) SWD (2017)350
Article 18

Entry into force

This Directive shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Article 19

Addressees

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President
**ANNEX I**

Part A

Repealed Directive
with the amendment thereto
(referred to in Article 15)


Part B

Time-limits for transposition into national law and date of application
(referred to in Article 15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directive</th>
<th>Time-limit for transposition</th>
<th>Date of application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003/98/EC</td>
<td>1 July 2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# ANNEX II

## CORRELATION TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directive 2003/98/EC</th>
<th>This Directive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(1)</td>
<td>Article 1(1), introductory wording, and Article 1(1)(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_</td>
<td>Article 1(1)(b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_</td>
<td>Article 1(1)(c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(2), introductory wording</td>
<td>Article 1(2), introductory wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(2)(a)</td>
<td>Article 1(2)(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_</td>
<td>Article 1(2)(b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(2)(b)</td>
<td>Article 1(2)(c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(2)(c)</td>
<td>Article 1(2)(d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(2)(ca)</td>
<td>Article 1(2)(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(2)(cb)</td>
<td>Article 1(2)(f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(2)(cc)</td>
<td>Article 1(2)(g)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(2)(d)</td>
<td>Article 1(2)(h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(2)(e)</td>
<td>Article 1(2)(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(2)(f)</td>
<td>Article 1(2)(j)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_</td>
<td>Article 1(2)(k)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(3)</td>
<td>Article 1(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(4)</td>
<td>_</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 1(5)</td>
<td>Article 1(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_</td>
<td>Article 1(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_</td>
<td>Article 1(6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 2, introductory wording</td>
<td>Article 2, introductory wording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 2 point 1</td>
<td>Article 2 point 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 2 point 2</td>
<td>Article 2 point 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_</td>
<td>Article 2 point 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 2 point 3</td>
<td>Article 2 point 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_</td>
<td>Article 2 point 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 6(5)</td>
<td>Article 7(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 7(4)</td>
<td>Article 8(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 10(1)</td>
<td>Article 11(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 11(2)</td>
<td>Article 12(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 11(2a)</td>
<td>Article 12(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 11(3)</td>
<td>Article 13(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 11(4)</td>
<td>Article 13(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 12(4)</td>
<td>Article 14(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 12(5)</td>
<td>Article 14(4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX IIa

List of categories and high-value datasets:

1. Geospatial Data
   - Postcodes, national and local maps (cadastral, topographic, marine, administrative boundaries).

2. Earth observation and environment
   - Space and situ data (monitoring of the weather and of the quality of land and water, seismicity, energy consumption, the energy performance of buildings and emission levels).

3. Meteorological data
   - Weather forecasts, rain, wind and atmospheric pressure.

4. Statistics
   - National, regional and local statistical data with main demographic and economic indicators (gross domestic product, age, unemployment, income, education).

5. Companies
   - Company and business registers (list of registered companies, ownership and management data, registration identifiers).

6. Transport data
   - Public transport timetables of all modes of transport, information on public works and the state of the transport network including traffic information.