Case study "Data Pioneers"

Setting / location: The pilot project "Data Pioneers" took place in Austria and consisted of four workshops in Vienna.

Scale / population: The data(sets) used within this hackathon like event is very diverse and comprises e.g. company specific data as well as climate scenarios or weather data. It contains different information on national level in Austria (company data, weather data, data of museum collections etc.) and also partly Europe-wide data (terrain models).

Who was involved: Project initiator has been the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology and the Open Data Portal Austria. Participating institutions were AEE INTEC – Institute for Sustainable Technologies, Die Johanniter Austria, UbiGo KG, VERBUND AG and Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik (ZAMG), which provided open data and participated at workshops to develop innovative community-based concepts.

Summary: The project "Data Pioneers" brings together companies and creative "data artists" to initiate open innovation processes by using open data. During four workshops and meetings, open data was analyzed and ideas for potential fields of application were developed. The result of the workshops are seven project ideas e.g. an Open Data Assistant, a tool for the observation of wetlands close to Vienna and a widget for community websites, which shows alternative options of mobility in rural areas. The tools and concepts are as various as the provided open data and are useable by different user groups.

Datasets used: Open data is provided by participating companies. The data is very diverse, it comprises e.g. data of museum and library collections, data of company foundations, digital terrain models, data of climate scenarios, multi spectral data of clouds, member data of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, data of political parties or data of courses of the Vienna University of Economics and Business.

Implementation / Method: The analysis and structuring of the provided open data for further handling was done during the Open Data workshop together with five companies. During the Data Pioneers Create Camp companies, creative thinkers and entrepreneurs developed new ideas to connect and illustrate information, innovative apps or business concepts. The results were publicly presented and discussed at the Data Pioneers MeetUp. Finally, the results were collected and disseminated by a media campaign. Some of the project ideas are now under further development and implementation by the companies, who provided the data at the beginning of the process.

Accessibility: In the project, open data from participating companies was provided. All the datasets can be downloaded from the website http://data.opendataportal.at/dataset.

Strength and opportunities: The aim of the project is to introduce companies to the world of open data und to connect them with people of the community, which know how to use the data. New concepts and innovative ideas to connect and illustrate data shall be developed in accompanying workshops by companies and creative thinkers.

Technical facts: The provided open data sets are available in different data formats, according to the type of information they provide.

Figure 1: Workshop (source: BMVIT)