

# The three SENSE3 sub-projects

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## 1 Exchange of Indicator data

The objective of the sub-project is to *continue* and *improve* the exchange of indicator data with the intention of making it visible on the EEA portal – and elsewhere. The indicators should primarily be the ones to be used in the SOER2015 report and we will extend the schema to adapt to the diversity at the national level rather than enforce conformity.

## 2 Exchange of RDF data

RDF is EEA's preferred format for data as it makes it easy to combine datasets from different sources. The objective of the sub-project is to try out tools to generate RDF from CSV, databases etc. The RDF files are placed on a national website and are harvested by EEA. To be able to discover new datasets we will exchange the metadata of the datasets also. There is a W3C specification called VoID that describes RDF datasets and how to combine them.

EEA already has a catalogue of RDF datasets online. The national datasets will be included in it and the catalogue improved to make it more useful.

## 3 Exchange of metadata on non-RDF datasets

The reuse of existing open datasets is low. One of the problems is the lack of discoverability. The datasets have too little text information to get a good ranking on Google, and if you want to take a more direct approach when finding a dataset you have to try a large number of locations. To solve the problem alternative search engines are set up called dataset catalogues or portals. The EU Commission has launched one in the beginning of 2013 at the location <http://open-data.europa.eu/en/>. It is only for data from the institutions and other bodies of the EU. There are national initiatives and there is [PublicData.eu](http://PublicData.eu). It is a Pan-European data portal, providing access to open, freely reusable datasets from local, regional and national public bodies across Europe. The format of the datasets can be Access, Excel, CSV, an API, RSS feed etc.

The objective of the sub-project is to create a data catalogue for environmental data and exchange the relevant meta-data in RDF. The dataset themselves will stay at the national node. The W3C has created a vocabulary called DCAT to describe metadata for datasets. The location is <http://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/>. The Digital Agenda for Europe strategy of DG-Connect is using this vocabulary for the OpenData portal.