



Statistics Finland 

***Open data and Business Register data  
in Statistics Finland***

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# Content

- Open data
- Statistics Act
- Business Register data as open data
- Opportunities and user needs

# Open data?

- Often refers to government information which has been made freely available to everyone to use
  - also companies, other organizations and citizens publish open data
- The Data has been made as easy as possible for anyone to use
- The *data has to be public information*
- Increasing the amount of open data is a major challenge
  - Open Data Programme in Finland

# Aspects in open data:

- Publicity
- Technical accessibility
- Free access
- Reuse permitting licensing
- Understandability
- Findability

# National legislation: Statistics Act in Finland

- Gives strict guidelines for using the statistical data of Business Register (BR) in Finland
- The primary exploited sources shall be data accumulated in administering the tasks of general government
- The statistical data in general is considered confidential
  - BR is the only business statistics domain that can provide some micro-data to wider use than e.g. for research purposes

# BR as a source for open data in Finland

- Coherent units (within StatFi) and good coverage
  - ENT, LKAU
  - Market and non-market units
- Need for LKAU level information!
  - Location
  - Combined effectively with other statistical information like employment
- Note:
  - Confidentiality ("sensitive activities", rural areas vs. capital area)
  - Does not provide "servicepoint" level information for consumers

# Open data of BR in Statistics Finland

- Statistics Finland's main online service StatFin gives free of charge access to tabulated Finnish statistical data including Statistical Business Register based data.
  - [http://www.stat.fi/til/yrti/tau\\_en.html](http://www.stat.fi/til/yrti/tau_en.html)
  - does not however contain any unit level information
  - the users can make 'tailormade' tables (given the existing classifiers) for their needs
- Paavo - The open data by postal code area service contains versatile statistical and map data. BR: LKAUs [nace, section; location]
  - [http://www.stat.fi/tup/paavo/index\\_en.html](http://www.stat.fi/tup/paavo/index_en.html)
- Findicators.fi service contains up-to-date information on key social indicators. BR: ENT -> SMEs
  - <http://www.findikaattori.fi/en>

# BR data in other open data services

- The Avoindata.fi service is a portal to national open data and the tools and Instructions promoting interoperability.
  - <https://www.avoindata.fi/en>
  - BR: LKAUs [location; Nace, division]. Note: Inspire directive, confidentiality -> limited coverage
- Paikkatietoikkuna is a public and free website that is open to all. It contains geographic information and information about geographic information (metadata) in Finland and the rest of the World
  - <http://www.paikkatietoikkuna.fi/web/en>
  - BR: LKAUs [location, nace]



# Opportunities and user needs

- Presently, the open data concerning BR is based on the information tables produced for usual publications in Statistics Finland.
  - have to obtain information about users' needs
    - a new feedback channel for users?
  - information about apps based on BR's open data is hard to obtain
- Statistics Finland has implemented an integrated business statistics production system
  - creates more opportunities for developing different BR-based products
- Note:
  - BR is purely statistical register with no 'administrative' role