

## **The Power of Open Statistics for Advancing the Smart City and Citizens Participation**

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The cities of Helsinki Metropolitan area (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen) have determinedly cooperated in order to open administrative and statistical data for public use. The publicly available data can be found at the new web service [www.hri.fi](http://www.hri.fi). The data can be utilized free of charge. The Helsinki Region Infoshare ([www.hri.fi](http://www.hri.fi)) web service makes public data from the Helsinki Region available for anyone to use. The 1000th dataset was recently opened.

The datasets made open cover for example data of living conditions, economy and welfare, employment and mobility. The benefits of open data are considered to be at least threefold. First, it enhances decision making and policy design of the cities. Secondly, it stimulates new economic activity and innovations. Thirdly, it will increase the citizens understanding of the operational environment and development of one's home town. Therefore, it is assumed that open data could activate the citizens and advance citizens participation in city development issues. The first experiences indicate that open statistics can act as fuel for the Smart City development. For example, open data can be used to build new web applications that benefit citizens. The data can be used to monitor, analyze and visualize social phenomena.

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