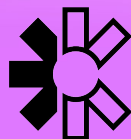


Open Data Editor

The tormented journey of an app

29 May 2024, csv,conf,v8

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Sara Petti



Open Knowledge
FOR A FAIR, SUSTAINABLE AND OPEN FUTURE

Hi there!
I am Sara



International Network, Projects &
Community Lead
@ Open Knowledge Foundation



Digital Commons



Bologna, Italy



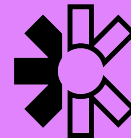
sara.petti@okfn.org



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sapetti9



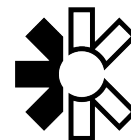
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Open Data
Editor

What is Open Data Editor?

- Easy-to-use desktop application to **maximise data & metadata interoperability**.
- Data management with **no code!**
- Optimised **for non-tech people**, small organisations, municipalities, GLAM, Global Majority, etc.



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Its super power?



It uses Frictionless under the hood!

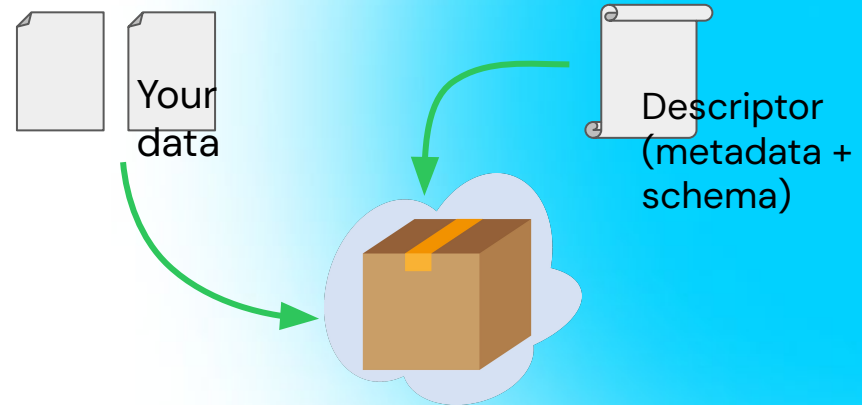
frictionlessdata.io
github.com/frictionlessdata



Frictionless

Removing the “friction” in data to move from data to insight faster

- Open code
- Data & metadata standards
- Software tools
- Community



Project: example

OPEN

Editor

Metadata

Report

<> Source

Chat AI

Errors

Undo

Redo

2022-05-05-13-00-Zeitreihe_fuer_Lauenb

okfn-network-projects.csv @okfn_netwc

table.csv @table

Zeitreihe für Lauen...

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Siedlungs- und Ver...

Zeit

31.12.2016

31.12.2017

<

<

Page

1

of

1

>

>

Results per page

50

Showing

1 - 19

of 19

> Resource

> Dialect

Schema

Fields

Foreign Keys

Schema

Name

Primary Key

Title

Missing Values

Description

Help

Schema

schema

Table Schema is a specification for providing a schema for tabular data. It includes the expected data type for each value in a column.

[LEARN MORE](#)

+ ADD

MANAGE

DELETE

SAVE AS

PUBLISH

REVERT

SAVE

Main functionalities

Local files: no clouds; no vendor lock-in

The screenshot displays the Open Data Editor interface. On the left, a sidebar shows file selection with options like '2022-05-05-00-Zeitreihe_fuer_Lauenb', 'okfn-network-projects.csv @okfn_netwc', and 'table.csv @table'. The main area shows a table with columns: Organisation, Name of Project, Project Description, Link, Category, Region, Language, and Ongoing/completed. A 'Fields' panel on the right lists 'id' (INTEGER) and 'name' (STRING). A 'table-invalid.csv (invalid)' error dialog is also visible.

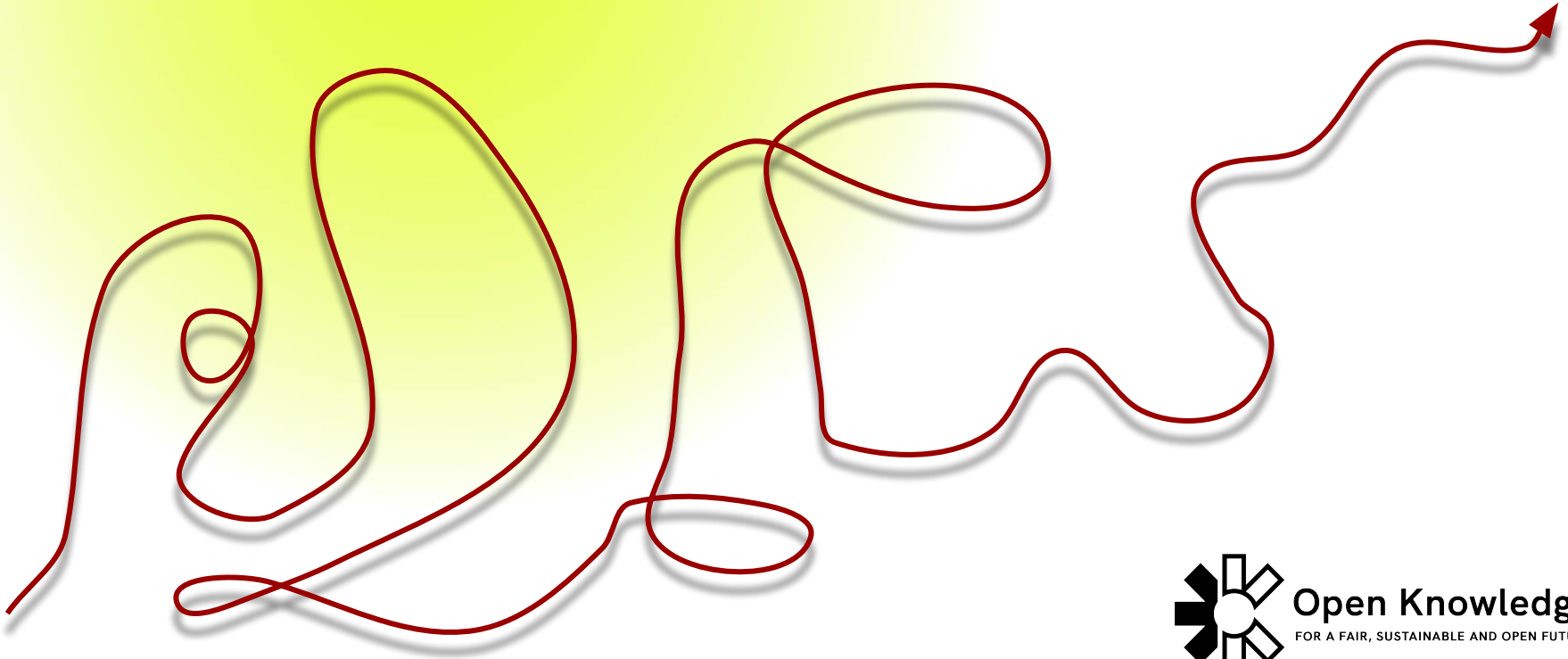
Sort, pagination, etc

Organisation	Name of Project	Project Description	Link	Category	Region	Language	Ongoing/completed
OKF Belgium	Bike Data Project	An open bike data platform for and by cyclists. Making cyclists more visible & cities safer.	https://www.bikedata.org/	Open Transport, Open Data, Civic Tech	Belgium	English	Ongoing
OKF Belgium	Equal Street Names	The names of public spaces (streets, avenues, squares and others) define the identity of a city. Many cities suffer from a major inequality between male and female street names and we want to help fix this.	https://www.bikedata.org/transport-open-data-civic-tech/belgium/english/ongoing/okbe-logo-svg/bike_data_project	Open Transport, Open Data, Civic Tech	Belgium	English	Ongoing
OKF Belgium	Open Summer of Code	Open summer of code is an intense summer programme where students learn programming, design- and business skills a summer job with a real challenge. The powerful real-world services for real organisations and companies.	https://osoc.be/	Open Source, Data	Belgium	English	Ongoing
OKF Brazil	Diário do Clima	A platform to be used by journalists to easily identify and relate to environmental issues.	https://ok.org.br/projetos/diario-do-clima/	Open Data, Open Source	Brazil	Portuguese	Ongoing
OKF Brazil	Monitor da INDA	The Querido Diário	https://ok.org.br/in...	Open Data, Open Source	Brazil	Portuguese	Ongoing
OKF Brazil	Querido Diário	The Querido Diário	https://queridodiario.org.br/	Open Data, Open Source	Brazil	Portuguese	Ongoing
OKF Finland	Hack4OpenGLAM	Hack4OpenGLAM	https://hack4open.glam...	Open GLAM	Finland	English	Ongoing

Fields

Field Name	Type	Action
id	INTEGER	REMOVE
name	STRING	REMOVE

It was not a straight path



Not our first attempt

A web application for data validation
try.goodtables.io (2018)



What is goodtables.io?

[Goodtables.io](https://goodtables.io) is a free online service for continuous data validation. It checks tabular data sources for structural problems, such as blank rows and, if available, checks the data against a [Table Schema](#). Read more about it on <https://goodtables.io>.

Validate tabular file

Source [\[Upload File\]](#)

[REQUIRED] Add a data table to validate.

Schema [\[Upload File\]](#)

Format

Auto

Encoding

Auto

[OPTIONAL] Select to validate this data against a Table Schema ([What is it?](#)).

Ignore blank rows

Ignore duplicate rows

Concerns: data privacy + hosting

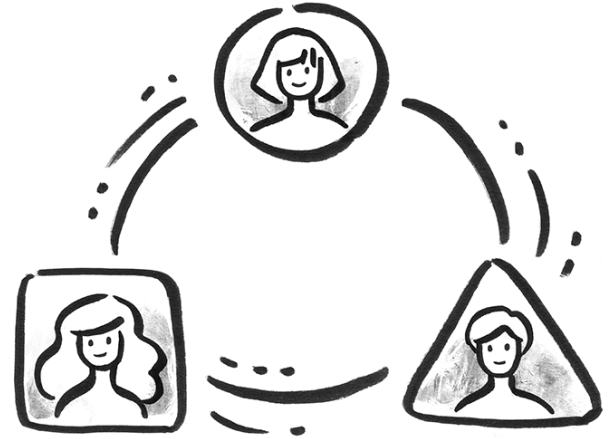
Some bumps in the road

- Target audience
- Few interactions
- Alpha not accessible to non-tech audience
- A lot of (great) ideas, but too many for a beta
- Seductive AI

Main takeaways:

1. Audience

- User research
 - Identify your **real audience**
 - Build a **relationship** with them
 - **Understand** their problems
 - & **iterate** ideas with them
- Don't underestimate the **user experience**



Main takeaways:

2. Be driven by simplicity, utility, and pragmatism

- Start from what you know
- Go one step at a time
- Don't try to reinvent the wheel



Main takeaways:

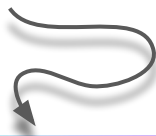
- Data is still messy
 - scraping for non-machine readable data (the infamous PDFs), and validating and cleaning data is still taking up people's time
- Don't be charmed by the latest tech trend
 - AI brings more problems than solutions

Build a brilliant team:

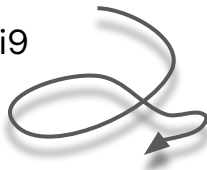
Evgeny Karev
Senior Dev
(& ODE creator)
@roll



Romina Colman
Product Owner
@romicolman



Sara Petti
Project & Community
Manager
@sapetti9



Guergana Tzatchkova
Senior Dev
@guergana



Patricio Del Boca
Tech Lead
@pdelboca



Thanks to the generous support of:



So what now?

- Release Open Data Editor v1 as a **stable application** by December 2024.
- Build solid relationships with target communities through **pilots**.
- Develop a corpus of **training material** (including tutorials, online trainings, etc.) **to increase and simplify adoption.**



Help us create the Tech we Want!



Could you take 3 mins to **help us understand how to make ODE more useful?**

<https://shorturl.at/Fcpmm>

Thank you!



Open Data Editor

<https://opendataeditor.okfn.org/>

<https://github.com/okfn/opendataeditor>

Frictionless Data

<https://frictionlessdata.io/>

<https://github.com/frictionlessdata/>

Open Knowledge Foundation

<http://okfn.org/>

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