

Data in the City

The Citadel movement helped over 140 European cities to open data. Here, four founding Associate cities tell their Open Data stories, starting with innovative French city **Issy-les-Moulineaux**.



Challenge

Issy-les-Moulineaux is a small city on the outskirts of Paris with a reputation as one of the early French leaders in the Smart City space. Despite a strong reputation for technology, Issy's experience with Open Data was very limited. Few datasets were available to the public and were difficult to find, hidden on a page of the city website away from public view. Staff lacked the capacity and knowledge to make smart choices about opening their data, leaving efforts stuck in the starting block. The senior management, under the leadership of visionary mayor Andre Santini, knew that action was needed to bring Open Data to Issy but did not have the wherewithal to act.

Involvement in Citadel

Through the Citadel on the Move project, Issy-les-Moulineaux was able to build their internal capacity to open data. Through focussed, practical guides like our [Business Requirements for Open Data](#), Issy learned about how to choose the right formats and standards to release high-quality Open Data. With such guidance as a starting point, Issy, with the support of Citadel, organized their own interactive workshop using our 'App4Dummies' model to rapidly upskill staff and give them the ability to find, open and use data in less than 4 hours. Issy was supported throughout their Open Data journey by

Citadel's suite of tools that transform any dataset into a simple smartphone app in a matter of minutes.

Results

As a result of the Citadel project, Issy has been recognised as a national Open Data champion, while the knowledge gained from Citadel also gave Issy the confidence to put in place a forward-looking Open Data strategy. Together with French-based provider OpenDataSoft, Issy has now built a state-of-the-art Open Data portal where residents can find more than 60 datasets, all in easy-to-use formats. Using Citadel tools, Issy has created 83 apps for local people on subjects as diverse as tourism, transport and tree locations. The city has already convinced several other French regions, including Grand Paris Ouest and Rhone-Alps, to follow their lead in opening data using Citadel guidelines. The city now plans to take their Open Data strategy even further, releasing real time transport data to spark. Speaking about Citadel's impact, spokesman Matteo Satta said "Issy has always had a reputation as a Smart City. Now thanks to Citadel, we are developing a reputation as an Open Data city too"



Adrian Slatcher
Digital Development Officer

“Citadel has been an incredibly valuable way for Manchester to link our Open Data programme more closely to the needs and activities of our innovation community”.

Citadel fostered a new Open Data culture at Manchester City Council.

Challenge

Manchester was one of the first UK cities to embrace Open Data principles. For a number of years the Manchester’s digital development agency, MDDA, (an agency of the City Council) has been working closely with other members of the digital community, such as Madlab, FutureEverything and Open Data Manchester, to stimulate the development of Open Data culture in the city. However, despite widespread cooperation, the overall understanding of Open Data and its benefits within the City Council remained low. Only a small number of datasets was available on the Council’s difficult for developers in the city to reuse them. There was clearly a need for an intervention to change this culture at the Council level.

Involvement in Citadel

Through the Citadel on the Move project, the city of Manchester was able to secure the support of the Council’s leadership and make Open Data an integral feature of the city’s digital strategy. Using Citadel tools and interactive Apps4Dummies workshops, Manchester was able to engage not only senior decision makers but also ordinary citizens with little IT knowledge and skills. Since Manchester became part of the project, 29 datasets and 70 apps were created for the city, all published on the Citadel website.

Results

As a result of the lessons learned Citadel project, Manchester Council overhauled their Open Data catalogue to make it more user-friendly and publish in the formats that developers like best. The number of apps using open data substantially increased and the Council is now exploring different options for expanding Open Data infrastructure through such tools APIs and data stores. The city is also trying to find the best way to feed real time environmental data, as well as data from transport and energy systems, into an emerging city data platform architecture.



Citadel unlocked cost savings for Ghent city council by making Open Data more accessible to all citizens and visitors.

“Citadel has created Open Data tools for cities, by cities. I am proud to head the Associate network that has had such a huge impact across Europe”

Geert Mareels
Flemish eGov Authority

Challenge

Ghent is a historic Belgian city that has long enjoyed the reputation of being one of the country’s leading innovation hubs. Its early adoption of Open Data values has made it a national pioneer and an example for many other cities to follow. While Ghent was quick to develop a data portal and a Living Lab, the main beneficiary of these assets was the developer community. Ordinary citizens were put off using data by the high technical barriers, which made it difficult for the city to realise the full innovation potential.

Citadel Experience

Through its participation in Citadel, Ghent was able to make Open Data accessible to ordinary citizens, as well as showcase the benefits to the city’s cultural community. Through hands-on Apps4Dummies workshops specifically designed to give people with no technical knowledge or skills a working knowledge of Open Data, Ghent brought ordinary citizens into the Open Data programme. By using Citadel’s App Generator, which makes it so easy to create apps from Open Datasets that even an eight year old boy was able to create an award-winning application in a matter of minutes, citizens of Ghent were able to create hundreds of new apps including a popular ‘gallery finder’.

Results

Citadel tools helped Ghent’s citizens to add more than 120 apps, all created by ordinary people, to the city’s growing list of services. By enabling anyone to become a developer through Open Data, the Council saved €15,000 on one project alone. Ghent is now adopting a city policy to always Open Data where possible.



Citadel helped senior leadership in Athens harness the power of Open Data for social innovation.

Challenge

After launching a small Open Data initiative in 2011, the City of Athens found itself caught in the midst of an unprecedented fiscal crisis. Faced with mounting pressure to do more with less, it was hard for Athens' initial Open Data advocates to generate additional internal support for this relatively new and untested concept, let alone a wider understanding of its potential importance and value.

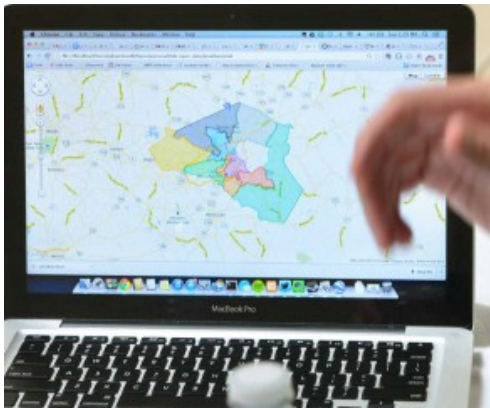
Experience

The Athens Open Data team used Citadel's tools and methodologies to identify quick 'wins' that showcased the immediate benefits of Open Data. Following Citadel's recommendation to start by opening data sets that matter most to local residents, Athens focused first and foremost on

tourist and transport data. Using Citadel's open source Apt Generator Tool – which enables even an 8 year old with no technical knowledge to generate an app in a matter of minutes – Athens then concentrated on creating free-to-use apps of immediate value to tourists, businesses and citizens alike.

Results

After seeing the benefits first hand, the Mayor of Athens proactively embraced Open Data – dedicating a special site on the city's website for open data sets and creating a new Open Data policy. Athens is now proactively leading national collaboration between the major cities of Greece, including Thessaloniki and Heraklion, in a concerted Open Data initiative.



For more information on how Citadel can help your city visit:
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