



INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

This symposium is a contribution to the scientific discussion of social, political, legal and economic aspects of access to public sector information and its digitisation.

The public sector is the biggest single producer and owner of a large variety and vast amount of information, reaching from administrative and government information to a diversity of non-administrative contents: e. g. legal and regulatory norms, political information, statistical, financial, and economic data, public registers, geographic, meteorological and environmental data bases as well as scientific, technical, medical and cultural information. This information is important for citizens and civic organizations, for private businesses as well as for agencies within the public sector. In particular, it is an essential resource for the creation of value-added information products and services by the information industry. Advanced information and communication technologies (ICT) play a key role in facilitating access and constitute integral components of "e-government" and "open government" as public sector reform projects. At EU level, the importance of public sector information as an issue of public policy is indicated, e. g., by a 'Green Paper on Public Sector Information in the Information Society'.

The symposium will address among others the following issues:

- Which rights do/should citizens and businesses have regarding access to public sector information?
- How should different aspects of access to public sector information be taken into account in the design of policies? (social, economic, technical, legal aspects).
- How far do national information policies and current regulations differ among countries? (especially EU-legislation, i. e. results of the green paper consultation process and member states).
- How can different approaches in the provision of electronic government services be balanced? (citizen vs. business-oriented approaches; supply vs. demand-oriented approaches).
- Which issues arise from currently available information products based on public sector data? (e. g. public vs. private providers; different models, e. g. exclusive license, competitive products).

The symposium language will be English.

The symposium is organised by the Institute of Technology Assessment – **ITA**, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna ([www.oeaw.ac.at/ita](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/ita)) and funded by the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour ([www.bmwa.gv.at](http://www.bmwa.gv.at)) and COST Action A14 "Government and Democracy in the Information Age" (<http://cost.cordis.lu/src/home.cfm>).

Kind support in programme planning was provided by Gerhard Wagner, Association of the Information Industry in Austria (VIW), Vienna, and Rudolf Lichtmannegger, Austrian Chamber of Commerce (WKÖ), Vienna.



**Venue:**  
**Austrian Academy of Sciences**  
**Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna**  
**1<sup>st</sup> floor, room "Sitzungssaal"**

International Symposium

# Access to and Ownership of Public Sector Information

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001  
9h00–18h00

# Programme

## Programme committee:

Georg Aichholzer, Herbert Kubicek, Klaus Lenk, Charles Raab

8h30–9h00 Registration

9h00–9h10 Opening  
Gunther TICHY and Georg AICHHOLZER,  
*Institute of Technology Assessment (ITA),  
Austrian Academy of Sciences*

9h10–10h45 **Session 1:  
Stakeholders and interests in public sector information**

Public sector information policy within the framework of the eEurope action plan  
Ivo VOLMAN, *European Commission, DG Information Society*

Access models for public sector information  
Rainer KUHLEN, *Humboldt University Berlin (Germany)*

Access to public sector information: need for constitutional recognition?  
Corien PRINS, *Tilburg University (Netherlands)*

10h45–11h05 Coffee break

11h05–13h00 **Session 2:  
Access rights and their limits**

The US model of open access  
Robert GELLMAN, *Privacy and Information Policy Consultant (Washington, USA)*

Possible structures for access legislation – how should the future access legislation be?  
Dag Wiese SCHATUM, *University of Oslo (Norway)*

Supporting systems for realising the right of access: the case of Bremen  
Herbert KUBICEK, *University of Bremen (Germany)*

Privacy issues as limits to access  
Charles RAAB, *University of Edinburgh (UK)*

13h00–14h00 Lunch break

14h00–15h45 **Session 3:  
Illustration of access and pricing regimes – case studies**

UK public sector information policy and on-line licensing systems  
Jim WRETHAM, *Her Majesty's Stationery Office (UK)*

Legal and political framework for the exploitation of PSI in Central Europe for boosting the information and content-industry  
Gerhard WAGNER, *Association of the Information Industry in Austria VIW (Austria)*

Cultural heritage: the conflict between commercialisation and public ownership  
Edeltraud HANAPPI-EGGER, *Technical University Vienna (Austria)*

Digitisation and digital rights management: experiences at ORF  
Peter DUSEK, *Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF (Austria)*

15h45–16h00 Coffee break

16h00–18h00 **Concluding panel discussion:  
How should an intelligent public sector information policy look like?**

- Which actions and policies are required to meet the interests of citizens, state and business?
- How to balance democratic needs and promoting information industry in Europe?
- What is "vital" public information and how can electronic access to it be guaranteed for all?
- How to distinguish basic information and added value in information products based on public sector information?
- How can open access and protection of privacy be reconciled?

Chair: **Herbert Burkert**, *St. Gallen University (Switzerland) and  
Institute for Media Communication (St. Augustin, Germany)*

Panelists: **Puay Tang**, *Science and Technology Policy Research (SPRU), United Kingdom*  
**Werner Teufelsbauer**, *Austrian Chamber of Commerce*  
**Gottfried Zwerenz**, *Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour, Austria*  
**Martin Schneider**, *Federal Ministry of Justice, Austria*  
**Gabriela Petrovic**, *Statistical Office Austria*  
**Boris Piwinger**, *VIBE!AT, Association of Internet Users Austria*

18h00 Closing