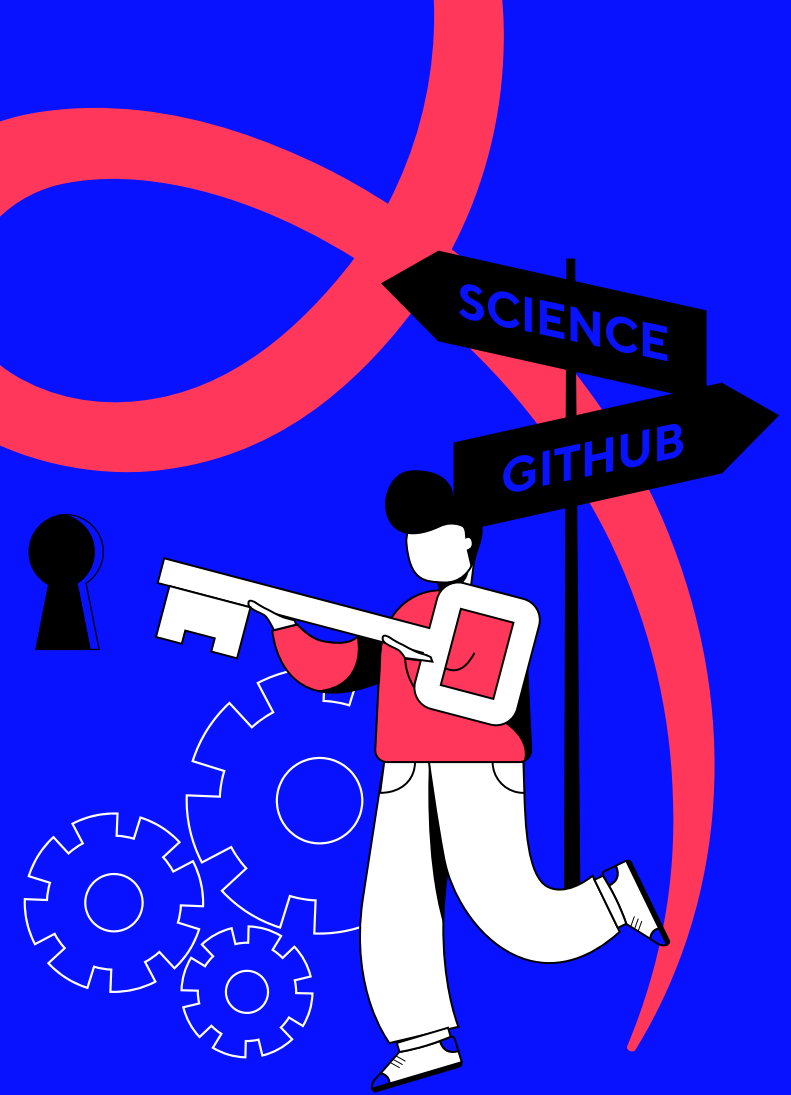


Data Explorer

How to make it easier
for everyone to explore
open datasets?



This method has been developed within ParCos. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 872500.





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About the Data Explorer



What?

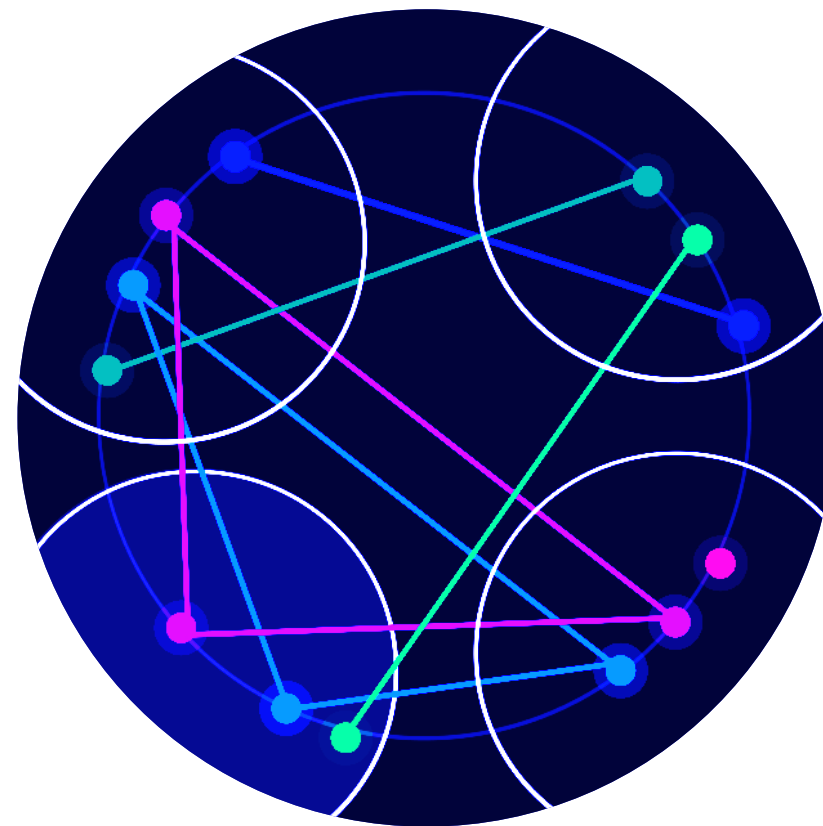
The Data Explorer is an online tool that allows the user to create stories using real world data around a chosen topic. It can be used to make new connections between different datasets, to provide a broader perspective on a relevant dataset and to understand how scientific data relates to the user's environment.

For whom?

This data exploration and visualization system aims to support both scientists and non-scientists in curating and interacting with data.

NOT THE TOOL YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?

Discover the other tools for participatory science communication developed within the ParCos project [here](#).





Why build the Data Explorer?

Scientific data is not always accessible to everyone. Even if data is open source, it can be difficult for people to access it, particularly when they lack a scientific or technical background.

What's more, everyday people are rarely given the opportunity to contribute to data that may be important to them or even directly related to them.

When researchers are outsiders working with local communities, data accessibility and inclusivity are especially important.





What is the Data Explorer?

The Data explorer allows you to create stories using real world data centred around a chosen topic, and can provide a means for interaction with data that is related to your environment.

The tool can be used:

1. To find new connection between different data sets
2. To give your perspective on data that may be important to you
3. To understand scientific data that is related to your environment



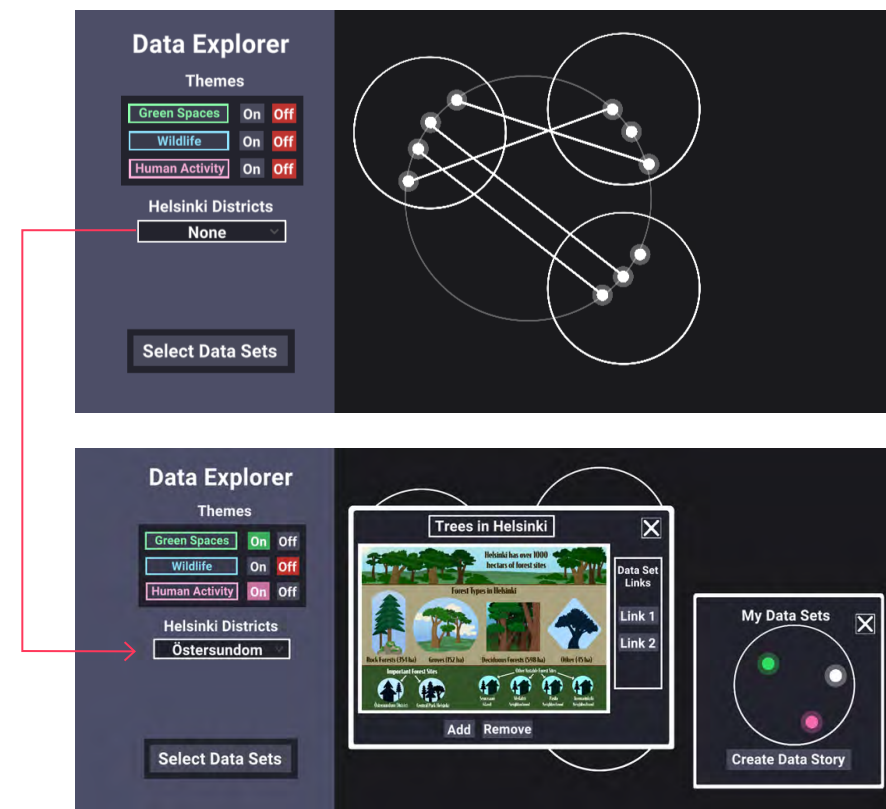


How does the Data Explorer work?



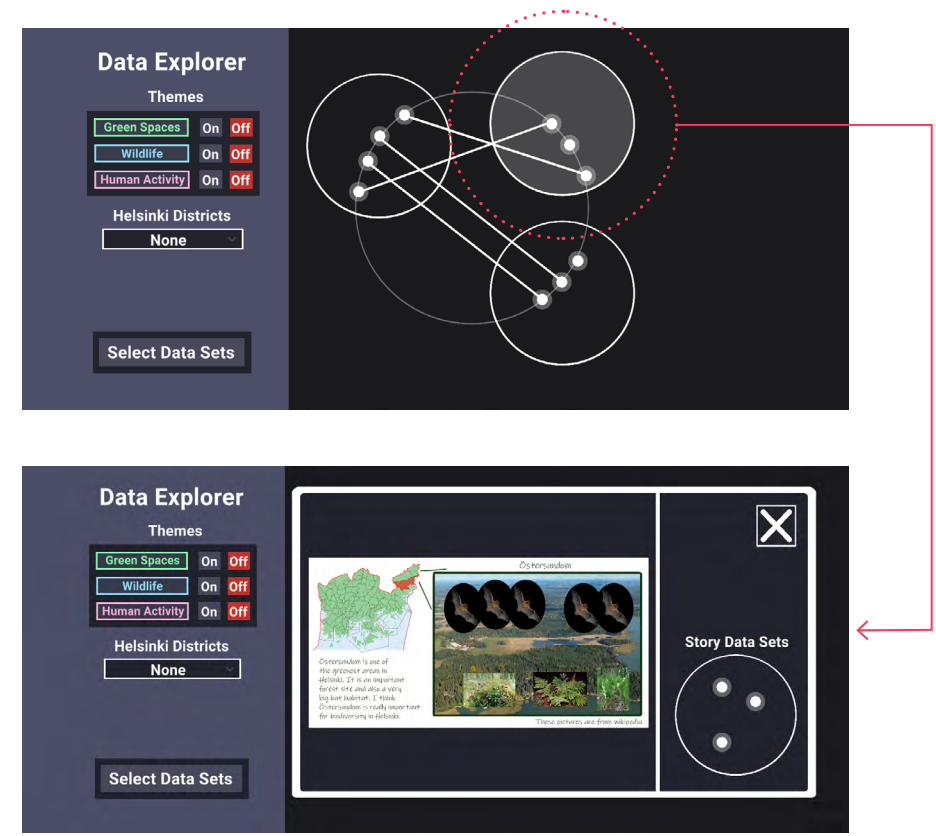
Step by step

1. Data sets are curated by researchers into comics, which as represented in the Data Explorer as 'data stars', little glowing white points.
2. These comics link to the original source of the data and provide a context for that data.



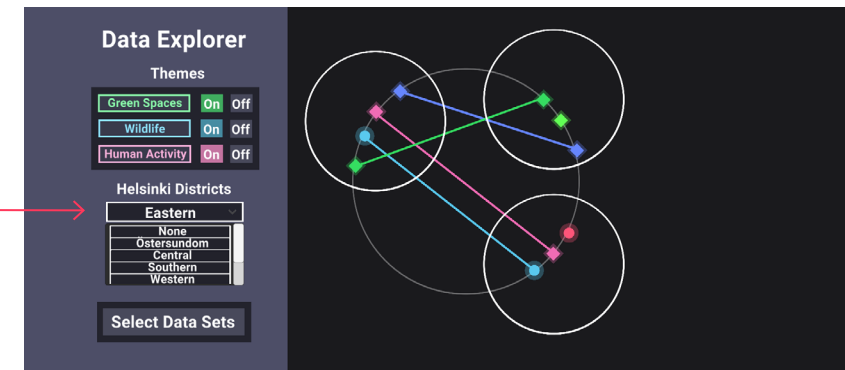
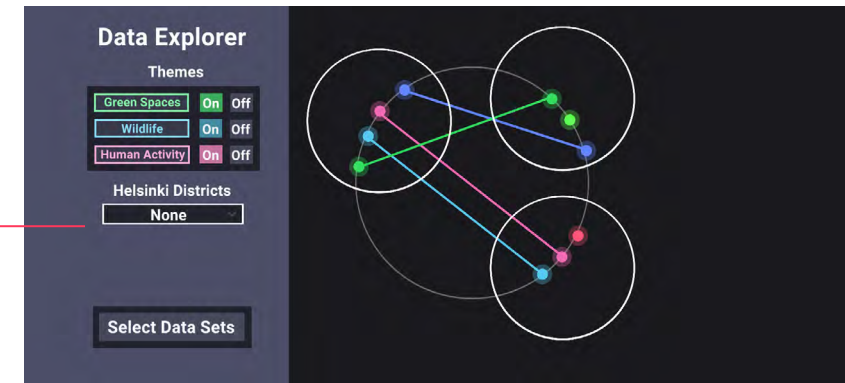


3. These 'data stars' are all part of different stories, which are represented by a circle or 'data constellation'. Stars can be in multiple constellations, which is represented by a connecting line.
4. If you click on a 'data constellation' you will see the story that it represents. In this version of The Data Explorer, we included several example stories.



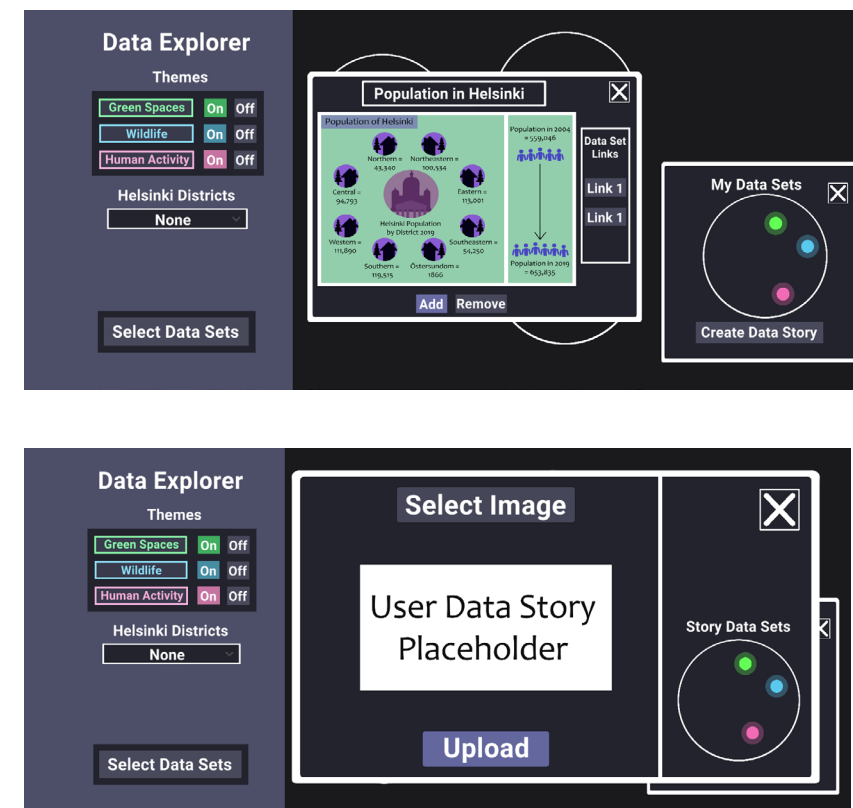


5. You can also sort the data stars by theme and location by clicking the themes buttons. The stars will change colour to correspond with their theme if it has been selected.
6. And you can also sort the data stars by location by selecting a location in the dropdown menu, all stars that are related to that location will change to a diamond shape.



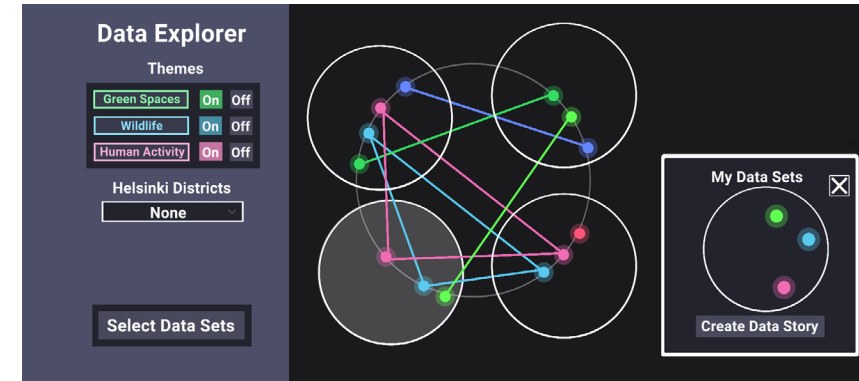


7. Finally, you can choose the data stars that you want to be part of your story and data constellation.
8. You can then choose the image for your story and upload your data constellation.





9. Now you will see your data constellation with the data stars that you chose, if you click on the constellation, you will see your story.





Further development



The Data Explorer prototype

You can find all back-end development for the Data Explorer on GitHub:

Website

If you want to edit the Data Explorer directly and make your own changes to it or version of it, you should have some programming knowledge already. Unity experience or C# knowledge will be particularly useful.

Information and guidance

If you do not have any programming knowledge or Unity experience, you can consult <https://unity.com/learn> for more information and guidance.

Website





Try out the live prototype!

Want to get started yourself?

The Data Explorer prototype is centred around the topic of biodiversity in Helsinki.

You can find The Data Explorer prototype at this link!

[Prototype](#)



Find out more



Contact

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Website

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Other ParCos tools

Discover the other tools for participatory science communication developed within the ParCos project [here](#).

