

Technical, semantic and organizational conventions for the use of DCAT-AP-ES in the datos.gob.es catalog.

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1. Introduction

In Spain, the exchange of open data between the Open Data Initiative of the Government of Spain (datos.gob.es) and the different data providers, such as regional catalogs, local entities and other bodies, is planned within a framework that ensures interoperability and homogeneity of metadata. To this end, the European application profile [DCAT-AP 2.1.1](#) will be adapted to national needs, giving rise to the DCAT-AP-ES standard, which will be established as a reference for the exchange of metadata on public information at national level.

Since the implementation of the standard, the central portal only accepts metadata in DCAT-AP-ES format. For those providers who supply data directly to the portal, a transition period will be established after the publication of new versions, during which they will be able to adapt their systems to the updated standard using the previous profile of the Technical Standard for Interoperability of Public Sector Information Resources ([NTI-RISP](#)).

In addition to detailing the specific changes introduced in the Spanish

standard with respect to the European version, the Conformance Manual also defines additional rules to address practical needs. These may include specifics of the Spanish open data context, where the implementation could be adapted to different technical requirements. In addition, it is expected that some of these rules will evolve faster than the main specification, allowing for greater flexibility and adaptation to technological changes.

This document is intended for those responsible for the development and maintenance of open data portals, as well as for data providers collaborating with the National Catalog. Its purpose is to provide clear guidelines and practical tools for efficient implementation of the standard. However, for use in specific contexts, the possibility of establishing additional conventions that complement the general rules is left open.

To ensure consistent interpretation, normative terms such as MUST, SHOULD and MAY are used, as defined in the standard [RFC2119](#), to distinguish mandatory from optional guidelines. Although the manual includes illustrative diagrams and examples, these are not normative unless explicitly stated.

This approach aims not only to standardize the exchange of metadata, but also to promote greater harmonization and cooperation between the different levels of government in Spain, ensuring robust and scalable interoperability.

1.1. Conventions for **dcat: Dataset**

1.1.1. Contact (**dcat: contactPoint**)

Data about contact options for a dataset or catalog can be specified using the vCard vocabulary. The following subset of the possible types in vCard are particularly recommended:

vcard vocabulary	
vcard: fn	Name
vcard: hasEmail	Email address
vcard: hasTelephone	Phone number
vcard: hasURL	Link to contact form (recommended) or website

Convention 01



Contact information **MUST** contain at least an email address (**vcard: hasEmail**) or a link to the contact form or chatbot (**vcard: hasURL**).

Convention 02



Contact information **MUST** contain at least one email address (**vcard: hasEmail**) or a link to the contact form or chatbot (**vcard: hasURL**).

Convention 03



Contact information **MUST** contain at least one email address (**vcard: hasEmail**) or a link to the contact form or chatbot (**vcard: hasURL**).

Usage Note



Contact information **MUST** contain at least one email address (**vcard: hasEmail**) or a link to the contact form or chatbot (**vcard: hasURL**).

1.1.2. Geographical coverage information (`dct:spatial`) {#dataset-dct-spatial}

In addition to `dct:spatial`, the specification of the geographic or geometric reference of a dataset can be done in DCAT-AP.de by using the following properties: - `dcatde:politicalGeocodingURI` ⌘ administrative geographic reference as URI, - `dcatde:politicalGeocodingLevelURI` ⌘ administrative geographic reference level as URI, - `dcatde:geocodingDescription` ⌘ management or technical geographic reference as descriptive text.

Geometrical spatial references (`dct:spatial` with `locn:geometry`)

`dct:spatial` can include both spatial and geometrical references.