



## INTRODUCING OUR WORK

**The Scottish Government's Data Standards team offer expertise and guidance on improving the interoperability of public sector information.**

Our team provides signposting to existing standards, ontologies, identifiers and values but can create new resources where required. We can also provide hands-on help to get organisations started.

Interoperability standards make the reuse of data easier for people, by getting computers to work with information in a reproducible way. This is largely achieved through code, which can be reused in different situations and systems. The standards also enable information to be merged and blended to provide diverse services and products.

Our team helps public sector organisations to implement their interoperability programme, and in general this is through minor modifications to their existing systems and services.

Any type of organisation is relevant for this work. At present we are collaborating with several organisations including NHS24, Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) and various parts of the Scottish Government.

## WHAT MATERIALS ARE COMING SOON?

- a briefing pack explaining our project aims
- plain English guidance explaining the underlying principles of interoperability
- a description of the standards we recommend for interoperable data



# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Sharing and Reuse Conference 2019

Our team were very lucky to attend this conference just a few weeks ago. It was a great opportunity to see how other member states of the European Commission are creating and making use of free open source technology.

We've written a short blog of the event which you can read [here](#).



## New Blog: Machine Readability Explained



How much do computers understand our data and why do we need them to? Check out our [beginners guide to making data machine readable](#).

## CONTACT

Please feel free to get in touch with us if you have any questions about our work, would like to get involved or have news to share.



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[@ScotlandData](https://twitter.com/ScotlandData)



[Click here](#) to join our mailing list if you would like to receive news and updates on our work.

## Upcoming Events



The European Commission is running an event on "Linking Data Spaces for Citizens" in Helsinki on the 21st of October 2019.

This is a great event to attend if you would like to hear how others are approaching the challenge of interoperability.

You can find more details about this event [here](#).



Attend Europe's only dedicated annual conference for taxonomy practitioners. The Taxonomy Boot Camp runs from the 14th-16th of October 2019 in London.

There will be speakers from organisations such as the BBC, Cancer Research UK, Electronic Arts, Elsevier, Etsy, Medical Defence Union, NHS digital, Publications Office of the European Union and the Scottish Government. You can see the agenda and sign up for a place [here](#).