EPSILON – European Platform for Data Science: Incubation, Learning, Operations and Network

Training Material for Teaching and Self-Learning

Data Science for Good

Module 2/6

▲ Hochschule Harz
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Agenda

▶ Social Good

▶ Data for Good

▶ Data Science for Social Good (DSSG)

▶ Who does Data Science for Social Good?

Social Good

What is Social Good?

Social Good

"A broad term that refers to services or products that promote human well-being on a large scale."

Barak 2020

Social Good can also be referred to as "common good" and is something that benefit the largest number of people in the largest possible way such as clean air, clean water, healthcare and literacy.

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Social Good

"The topic of Social Good goes hand in hand with the challenges of our society."

Barak 2020

"These challenges include social problems such as mass immigration, uncertain economic futures, human right abuse, food shortages, affordable housing and inadequate responses to natural and man-made disasters."

Solutions to these topics are of great benefit for the Social Good.

Barak 2020

Data for Good

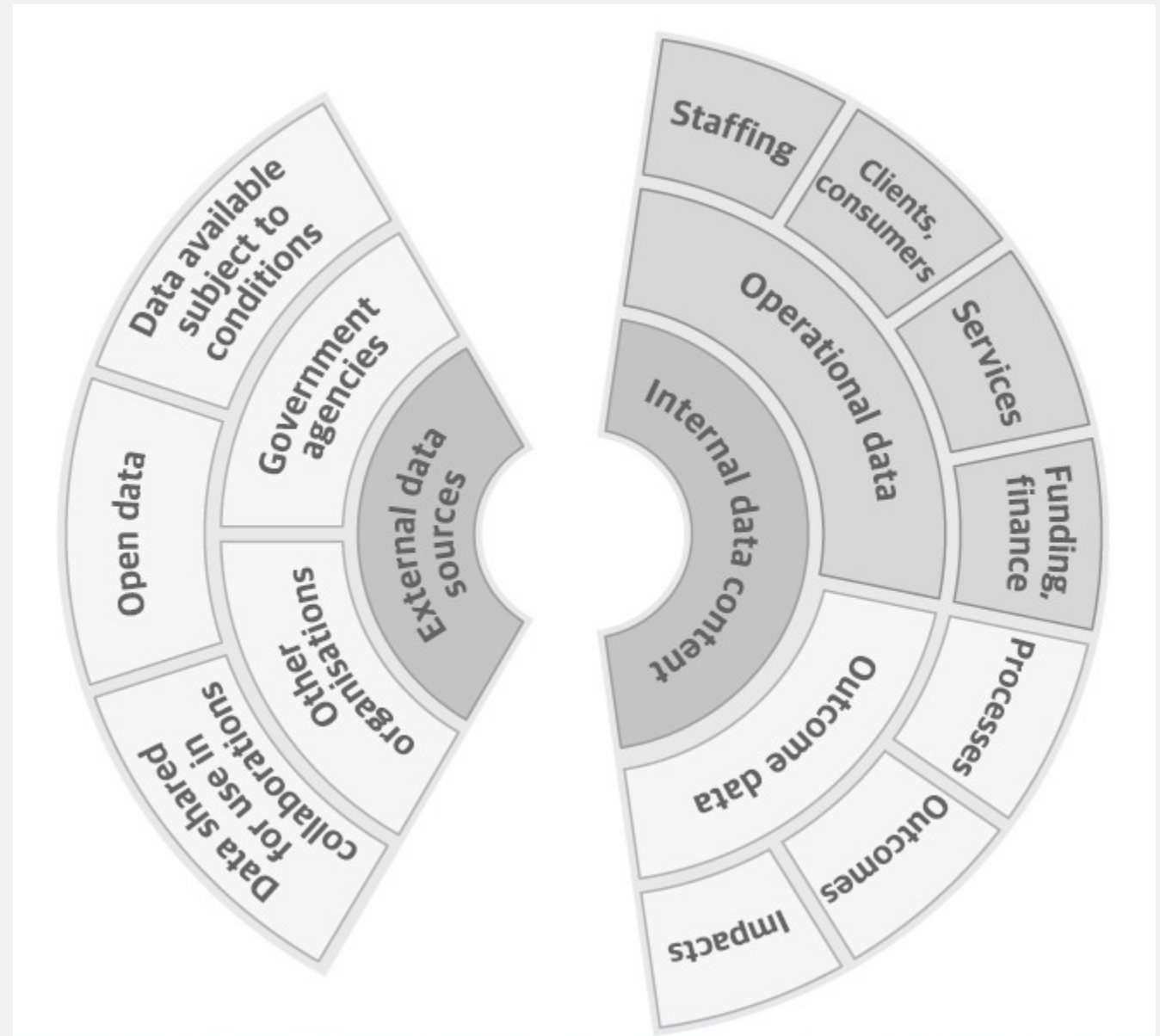Where does the Data come from and how can we collect it?

Sources of Data in NGO's

1. External data sources

- All data that can be accessed external to the organisation
- Open data generated by government statistical agencies and by other organisations

2. Internal data sources

- Generated for and through an existing business purpose
- Collected specifically for assessing processes, outcomes or impacts of programmes
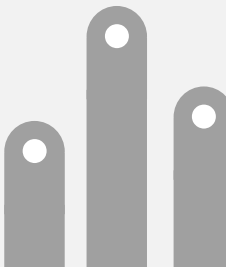
Free External Databases

There are open databases that can be used free of charge for DSSG projects and training.

For example:

- OurworIdindata.com

- Statista.com

- Open Access Data (provided by governmental agencies)

Data Science for Social Good

How to utilise the strengths and analytical nature of Data Science to offer solutions or advancements to socially relevant problems

What is Data Science for Social Good?

It is definable as a summary of all initiatives that have joined the Data Science for Social Good Movement.

Since many initiatives with different names (Correlaid, etc.) have been founded in this dynamic field, Data Science for Social Good or Data Science for Good is centred on the movement and in this case represents the sum of all associations.

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The Initiative

In 2013 *Data Science for Social Good* initiative launched at University of Chicago.

The mission of *Data Science for Social Good (DSSG)* is to foster the use of data science for positive social impact. DSSG trains and supports a new generation of data scientists, provide direct support to nonprofits, and develop tools that ensure data science and artificial intelligence are used to positively and equitably benefit people all over the world.

What is Data Science for Social Good?

Data Science for Social Good is a dynamic and purpose-driven field that employs the principles and methodologies of data science to tackle pressing social and humanitarian challenges.

At its core, Data Science for Social Good seeks to leverage the analytical capabilities of data scientists to generate meaningful insights and solutions that can address complex issues affecting society.

Who else does Data Science for Social Good?

Who does Data Science for Social Good?

Anyone with interest in Data Science can volunteer in a **DSSG initiative** (e.g. DataKind or CorrelAid) to support **organizations** (e.g. NGO's or Social Organizations) **that need help** in using data purposefully.

DATA SCIENCE FOR SOCIAL GOOD

DECISION-MAKING BODY
DATA SCIENCE MANAGERS
OTHER MANAGERS
MENTORS & EXPERTS
DATA SCIENCE & POLICY STAFF
GENERAL/ SUPPORT STAFF

NGO'S
GOUVERNMENTS
SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS
SOCIAL POLICY
EDUCATION
HEALTH
PUBLIC WELLFARE

Who does Data Science for Social Good?

DataKind®

… uses data science and AI to improve the capabilities, reach, and scale of social impact organizations.

Data for Good – later branded as *DataKind* – was among the first organizations in 2010/2011 to try and match up Data Scientist with non-profits and small companies.

Nowadays some DSSG organizations even offer summer fellowship trainings or Datathons which tend to be 24-hour challenges.

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DataKind (2024)

Who does Data Science for Social Good?

CORRELAID
GOOD CAUSES. BETTER EFFECTS.

... supports social organisations in achieving their goals and increasing their social impact through analysis and consulting projects.

CorrelAid is a community of over 2400 data science volunteers who want to use their skills for good causes.

In pro bono skilled volunteering projects, *CorrelAid* matches teams of 3-8 of these volunteers with nonprofits and initiatives that need support with their data challenges.

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Sources

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Open Educational Resources

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