Projet cofinancé par le Fonds Européen de Développement Régional (FEDER)
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Open Data & the Re-Use of Public Sector Information: PSI Workshop by Public Administration and Personnel Department

The SBLA experience with HOMER

25 November 2014, Nicosia

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Current situation

- The Sewerage Board of Limassol-Amathus (SBLA) is the only public sector body in Cyprus that has created a dedicated portal for the publication of the data that it produces in a raw format and available to the general public for reuse without any restrictions.

- The SBLA, has created this portal in 2013 in the context of project HOMER. Through its participation in HOMER, the SBLA, representing the Greater Limassol Area, has expressed its commitment to promote the open data initiative within the district boundaries of its area of jurisdiction, by evaluating the ways in which the data held by the Board can become available and (re)usable and implementing the changes that are necessary towards this objective. towards

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List of datasets on SBLA open data portal

- Sewage pipes and manholes within the boundaries of SBLA.
- Sewerage connections per municipality.
- Sewerage connections type of property.
- Sewerage connections per street.
- Quality of treated digested dewater sludge.
- Quantity of treated digested dewater sludge.
- Quality of treated wastewater.
- Quantity of treated wastewater.
- Quality of incoming untreated wastewater.
- Quantity of incoming untreated wastewater.

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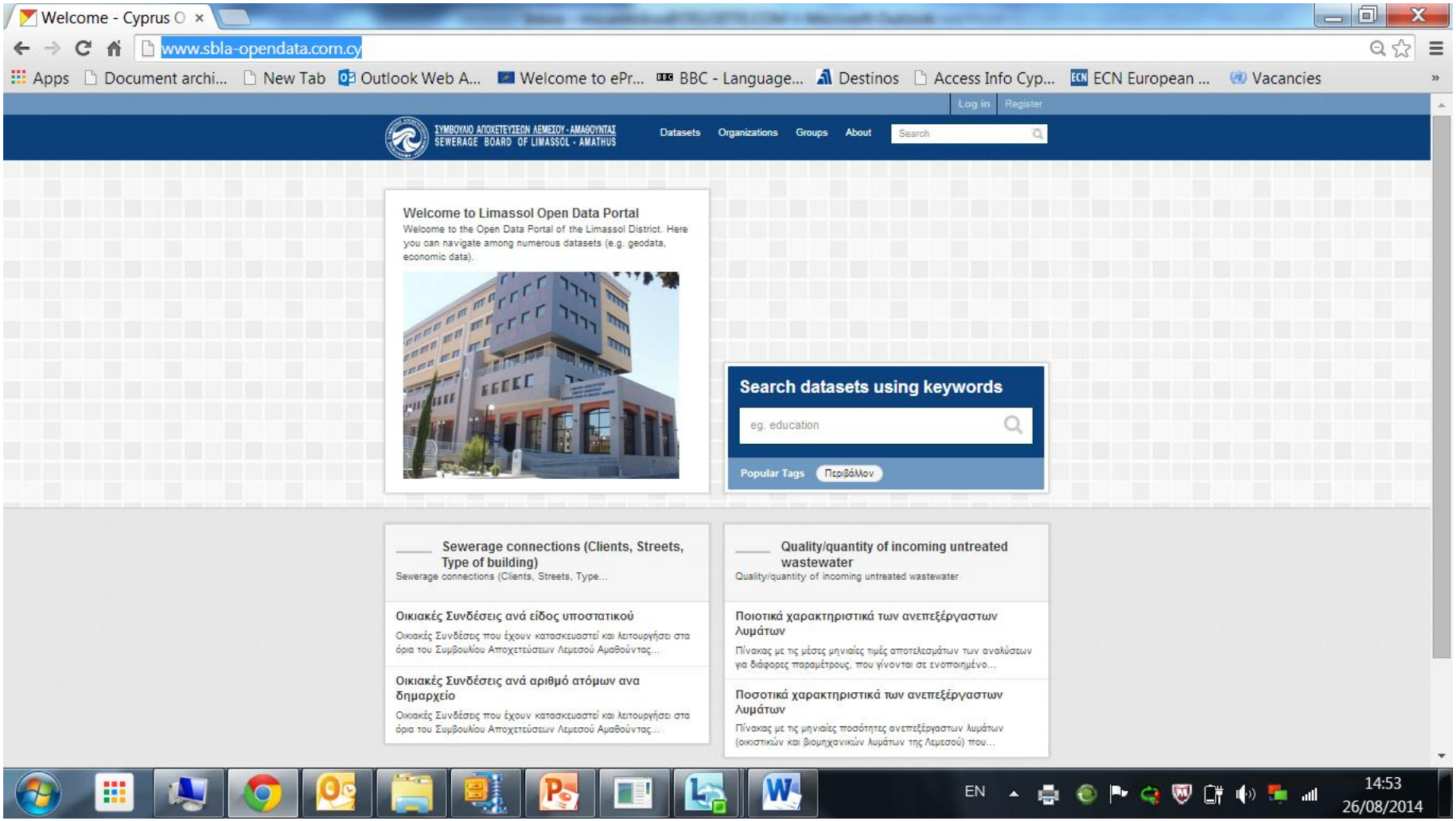

www.sbla-opendata.com.cy

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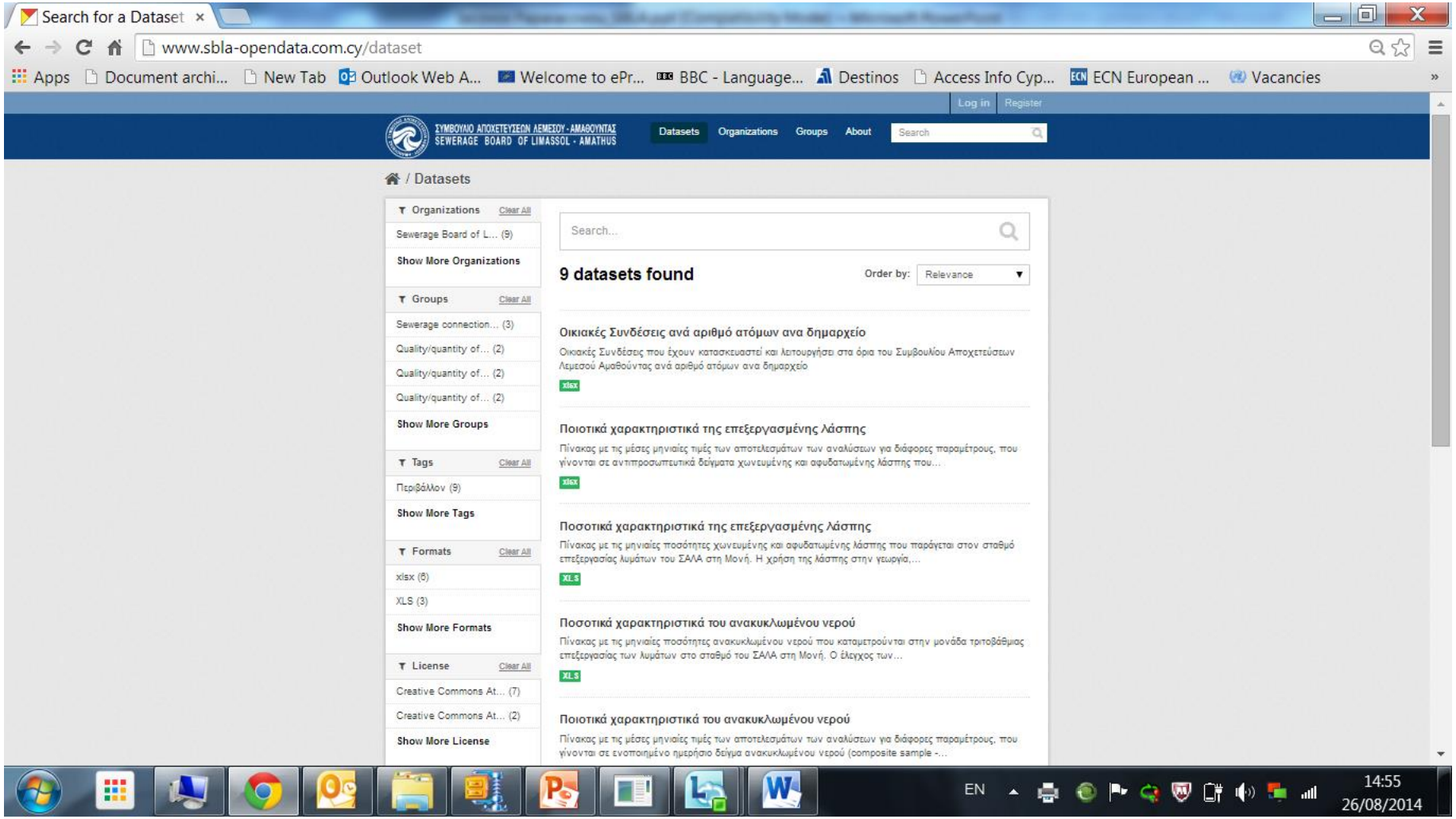

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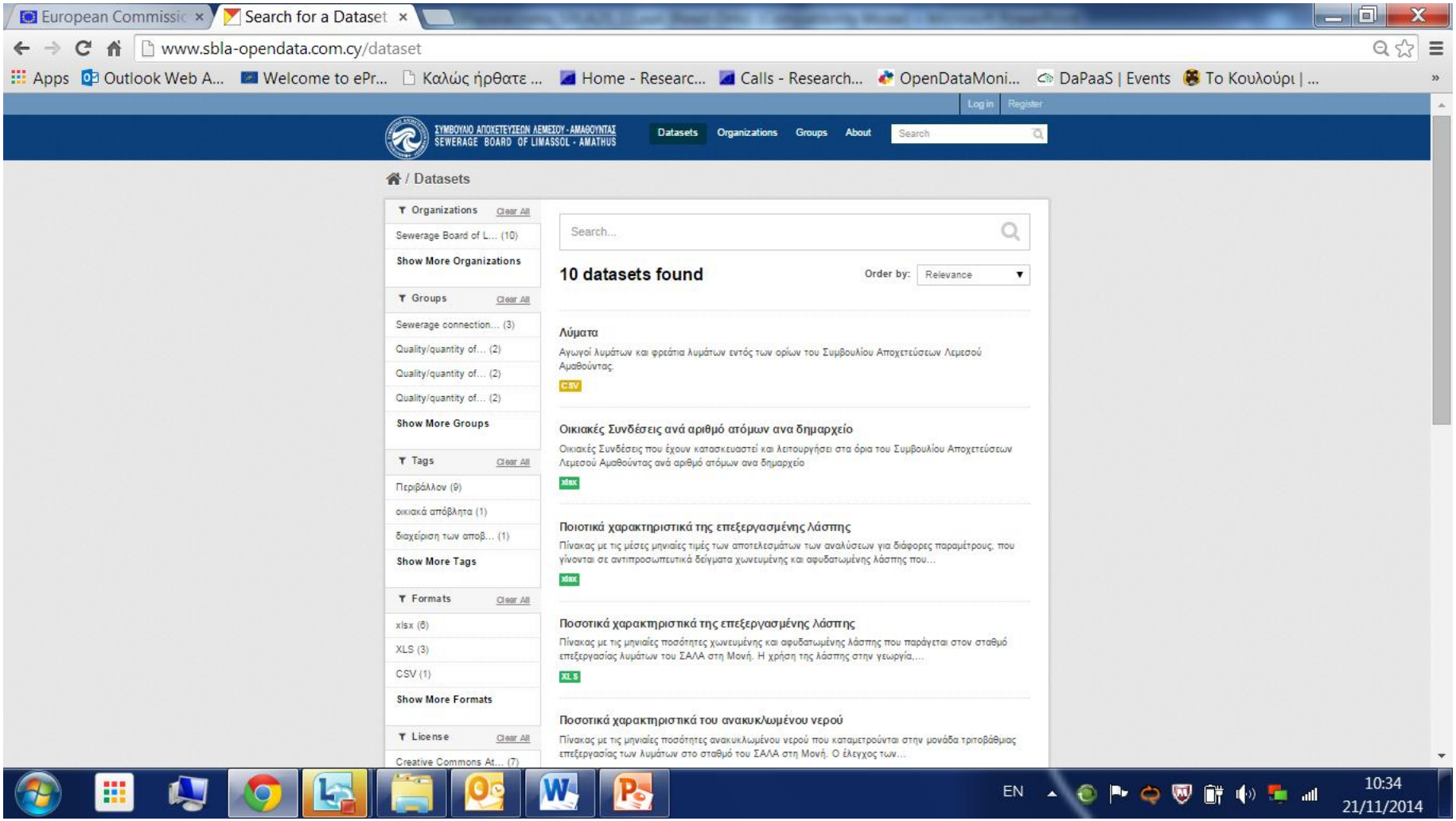

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Information about the datasets published

- All data and datasets relate to information already collected by the SBLA as part of its usual activities.
- Most were already published in the SBLA website (www.sbla.com.cy) in pdf format.
- In www.sbla-opendata.com.cy the information is published in accordance to HOMER federation guidelines.

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Challenges (1)

- A number of challenges from the "supply side" (i.e. internal SBLA) have been identified:
  - Lack of commitment of staff due to lack of awareness on the of the potential benefit to the private sector from the re-use of PSI. A lot of information is held in formats that have to be modified in order to enable the organization to open its data.
  - In the cases where data are held in a digital format, there are no interoperability specifications and none have metadata.
  - An extra effort and extra time is required for keeping data and the associated metadata up-to-date.
  - There is still limited knowledge on the issue of privacy and its link with the freedom of information.

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Challenges (2)

- Challenges from the “demand side” (potential users: citizens, professionals, etc) have also been identified:
  - Limited awareness on the importance of open data means that there is not enough pressure for the provision of information from the supply side.
  - There is not as much trust for information published online.
  - For some, the web is not the first or preferred source of information.

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Next steps

- The SBLA will continue to update the information on its portal and there are plans to increase the number of datasets published.

- A mechanism needs to be established internally which will guarantee the systematic collection and uploading of information on the portal by the relevant departments as well as its quality.

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List of new datasets to be published in SBLA open data portal

- Statistical data related to performance indicators , sewer connections , sewage network etc.
- Financial data related to SBLA financial statements.
- Data related to the sewage and drainage charges imposed and collected by SBLA.

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Thank you

Iacovos Papaiacovou

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