Open Data Release and Lifecycle Management Course

6 – 10 December 2026
Johannesburg

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Ref: 857_164803 **Date:** 6 – 10 December 2026 **Location:** Johannesburg **Fees:** 4500 Euro

Overview

Open Data Release and Lifecycle Management Course is a one-week course for data managers, governance teams, analysts, records specialists, and digital transformation staff who leave with an Open Data Release Pack. Participants inventory datasets, define metadata, test quality, assess licensing and disclosure risk, prepare machine-readable distributions, and manage publication and versioning. The course turns ad hoc releases into a repeatable operational lifecycle. Agile Leaders Training Center develops open data release management practice.

Who Should Attend

- Data management functions responsible for dataset inventories, ownership, and lifecycle controls
- Information governance functions responsible for classification, access, retention, and release decisions
- Analytics functions responsible for preparing reusable datasets and documenting their meaning
- Records functions responsible for provenance, version history, and publication evidence
- Digital service functions responsible for catalogs, downloads, APIs, and user feedback

The course assumes participants can work with organizational datasets and basic data-quality checks; it leaves out database administration, software development, and broad enterprise governance design.

Departments and Industries

The course supports departments and industries that publish data for external reuse and accountability.

- Information management, digital transformation, statistics, and public information
- Transport, utilities, healthcare, and education
- Research, environmental services, culture, and infrastructure
- Financial services, telecommunications, technology, and professional services

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Build an open-dataset inventory with accountable owners.
- Apply DCAT metadata and data-quality assessment methods.
- Evaluate licensing, privacy, disclosure, and de-identification controls.
- Use machine-readable formats and API publication patterns.
- Build a versioned publication workflow with release gates.
- Analyze usage feedback and prioritize dataset improvements.

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Course Agenda

Day 1: Establish the Open Data Lifecycle

- Open Data Lifecycle and Value-Use Map
- Dataset Inventory and Ownership Register
- Release Candidate Prioritization Matrix
- Provenance, Retention, and Version History Record
- Governance Role and Decision Rights Chart

Day 2: Describe and Assure Datasets

- DCAT Dataset, Distribution, and Data Service Model
- Metadata Profile and Controlled Vocabulary Checklist
- Data Quality Dimension and Metric Catalogue
- Completeness, Validity, Timeliness, and Consistency Test
- Issue Log, Remediation Owner, and Acceptance Rule

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Day 3: Control Safe and Lawful Release

- Open License Selection and Attribution Record
- Sensitivity Classification and Disclosure Risk Screen
- Direct and Indirect Identifier Review Method
- De-identification, Aggregation, and Suppression Decision
- Release Approval and Exception Evidence File

Day 4: Publish and Maintain Access

- Machine-Readable CSV, JSON, and RDF Distribution Plan
- API Endpoint, Parameter, and Usage Documentation
- Catalog Record, Download, and Access Service Workflow
- Dataset Version, Change Note, and Deprecation Method
- Usage Analytics, Feedback, and Improvement Backlog

Day 5: Practice Open Data Release

- Exercise: Validate Dataset Inventory and Ownership
- Exercise: Repair Metadata and Quality Evidence
- Exercise: Assess Licensing and Disclosure Controls
- Exercise: Test Distribution and Versioning Workflow
- Capstone: Open Data Release Pack

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Practical Exercises

The course uses suggested activities based on transport, health, environmental, and service datasets.

- Suggested activity: classify candidate datasets and assign owners, users, risks, and release priorities.
- Suggested activity: create a DCAT-aligned metadata record and test its quality evidence.
- Suggested activity: screen a dataset for identifiers, licensing constraints, and disclosure risk.
- Suggested activity: prepare machine-readable distributions, change notes, access documentation, and a release decision.

FAQs

Who suits open data lifecycle management training, and what does it assume?

Data, governance, analytics, records, and digital service functions suit the training. It assumes practical access to organizational datasets and basic quality checks.

How does open data release management differ from general data governance training?

Open data release management concentrates on dataset selection, metadata, quality, licensing, disclosure risk, machine-readable publication, versioning, and user feedback rather than enterprise-wide governance structures.

Why use DCAT metadata for open data catalogs?

DCAT metadata provides a shared structure for describing catalogs, datasets, distributions, and data services, improving discovery and exchange across catalog environments.

How should teams reduce disclosure risk before open-data publication?

Teams should classify sensitivity, identify direct and indirect identifiers, assess combinations and small groups, select proportionate de-identification controls, document residual risk, and record the release decision.

What makes an open dataset machine-readable and reusable?

A reusable open dataset has structured nonproprietary distributions, clear metadata, stable identifiers, documented fields, licensing terms, version notes, quality evidence, and accessible download or API routes.

Conclusion

Participants take back an Open Data Release Pack containing an inventory, metadata record, quality evidence, license, disclosure screen, publication workflow, distributions, version notes, and monitoring plan. It changes dataset release from an informal handoff into a controlled lifecycle. The pack supports repeatable review, publication, maintenance, and improvement.