

Questions addressed:

- 1) What are the main obstacles your NHS is facing with regard to making data open?
- 2) What are the “for & against arguments” of making data public available?

- **WHAT** is Open data?

*Open Data is data that can be freely used;* in the context of hydro/met institutes, as governmental organizations, the data that is produced is already payed by tax-payers.

- There is a **push** from many directions: from within governments, from users and from the private sector, **to open up public data holdings** for unrestricted use by the general population.
- Historically, while WMO Member States are committed to WMO data policies as prescribed by WMO Resolutions 25, 40 and 60,
- **national policies** have ranged widely, from restricting the access to the public data holdings, to providing universal free access to data.
- Large variety within the RAVI: some NHSs make available all their data; others publish a selection of hydrological data, while other available data should be requested by users at a certain price. In some cases users prefer to ask for information on data, instead of downloading by themselves for professional activities.
- By the implementation of open data, some **NHSs are concerned of the loss of any revenue generated from data sales**, as governments legislate to make public data openly available for free or at only the cost of provision. However, it is recognized that open data increase reputation of NHSs for their public services.

Furthermore, despite the focus on available technology, hydrologists remain an integral part of service delivery, right across the value chain, including maintenance and operation of technologies and collection and quality assurance of data.

- There are significant challenges in organising hydrological data in such a way that they can be readily discovered and accessed, and to implement modern access mechanisms such as **web services** and **APIs**. The implementation of WHOS may assist NHSs in RAVI, as its architecture includes the provision of web services and standards with the aim of facilitating operational activities in water resource management, including coping with hydrological extreme events during emergencies.