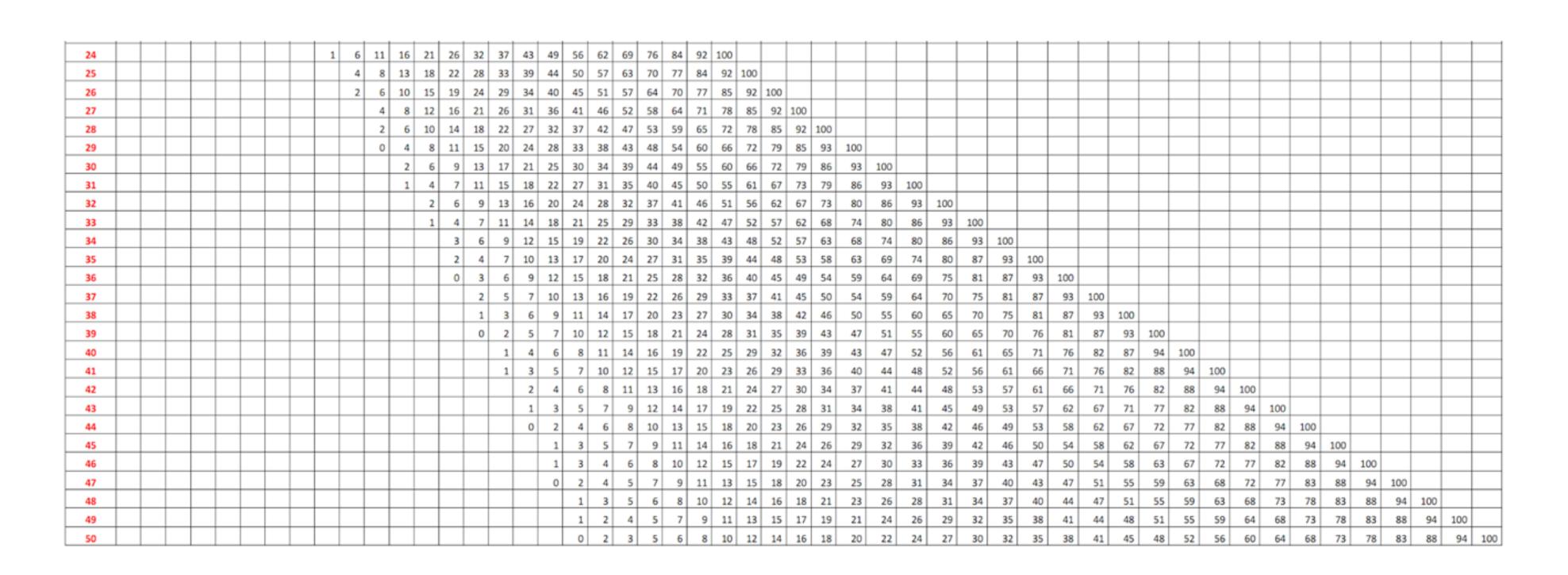




HOW PA DATA ARE PUBLISHED



In organising and offering public services, the PA collects and manages a great deal of data, documents and information...





From posted data to pin boards...



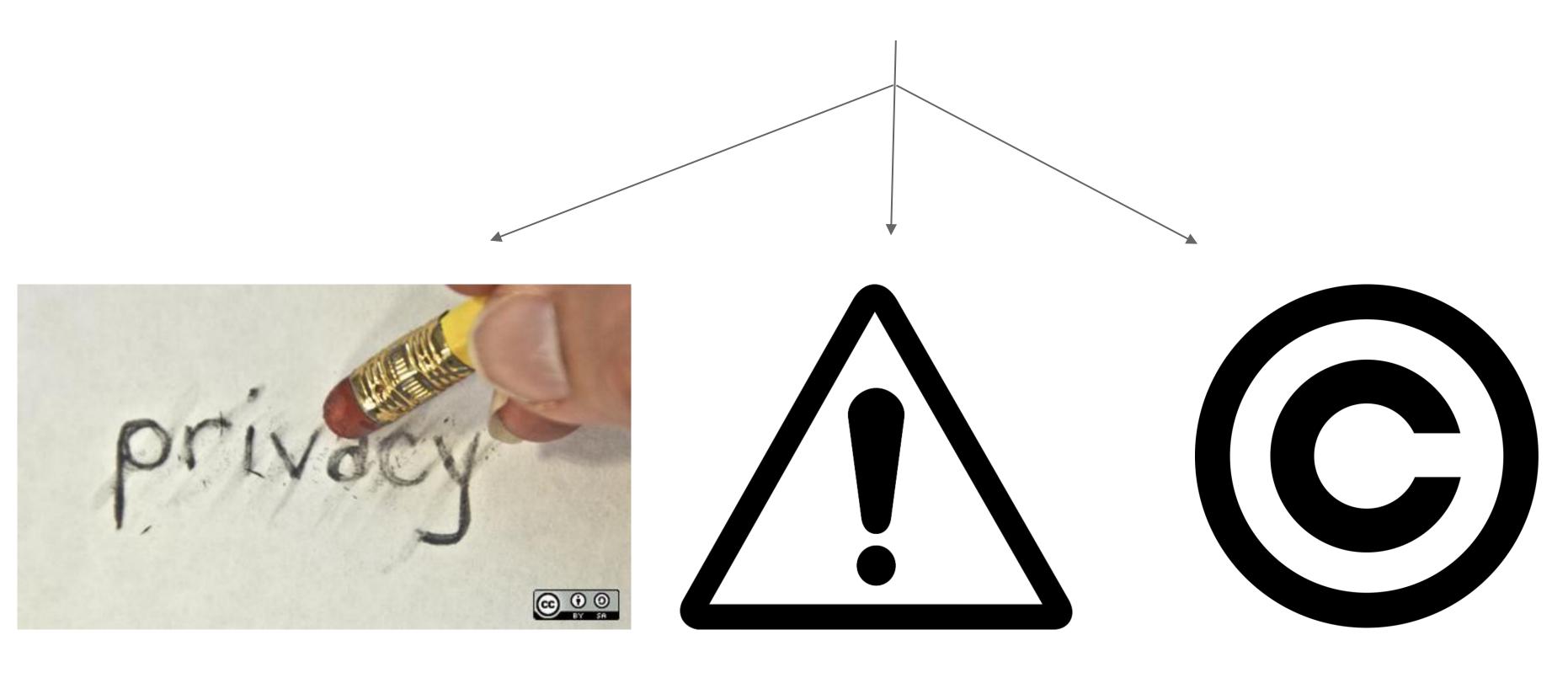


To online data published on the websites of the public entities that generate the data





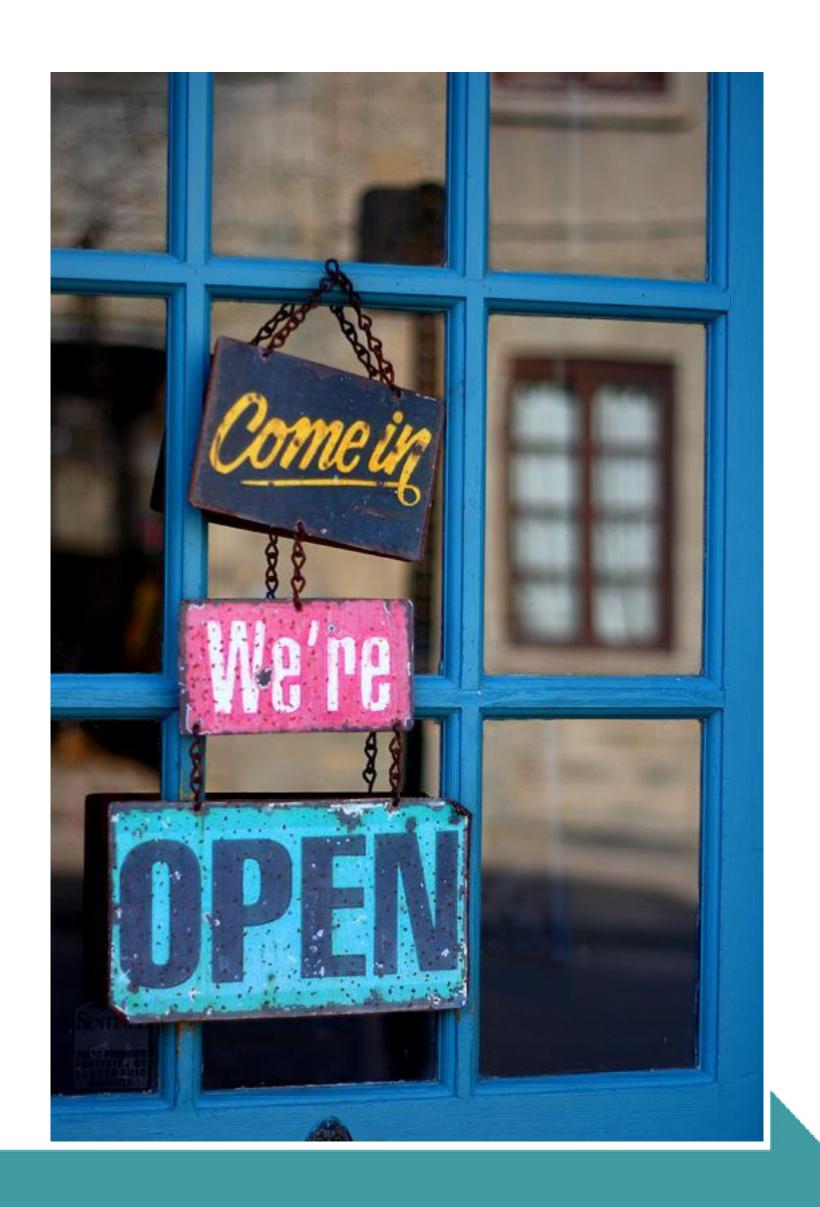
An important principle:
PA data are **public**,
unless specifically **exempt**





All citizens are guaranteed the right to access public information.

This right is regulated by the law.



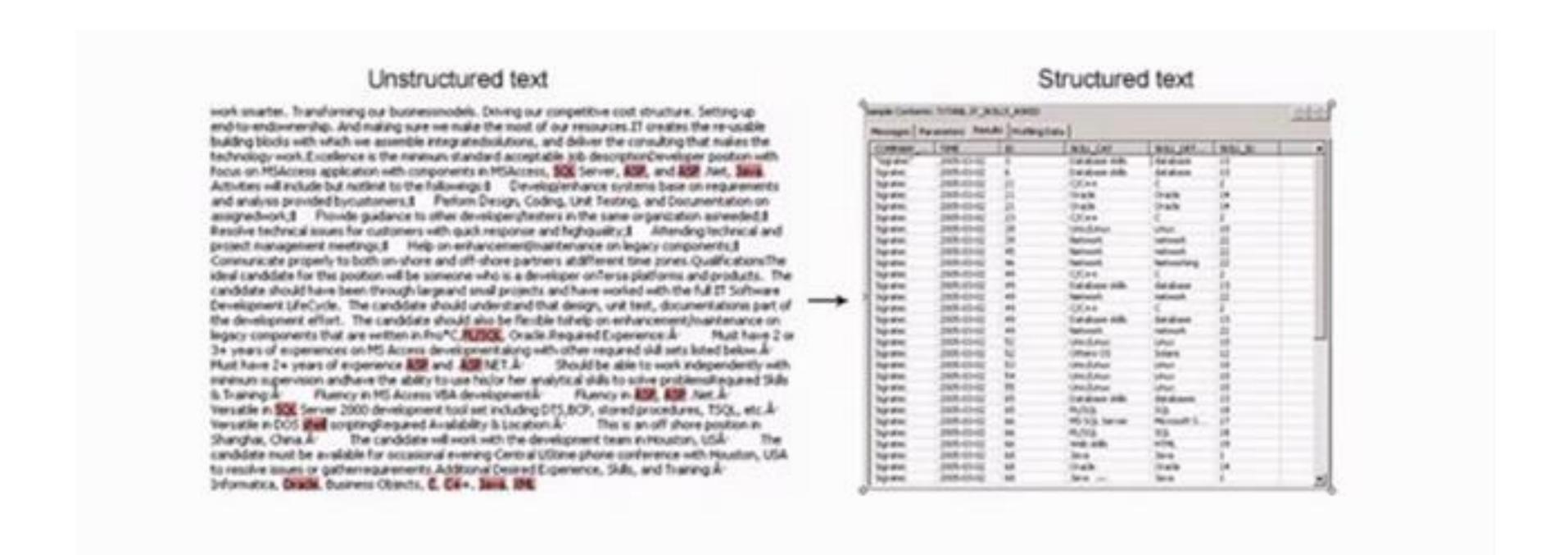


IN WHAT FORM DO WE FIND THE DATA?



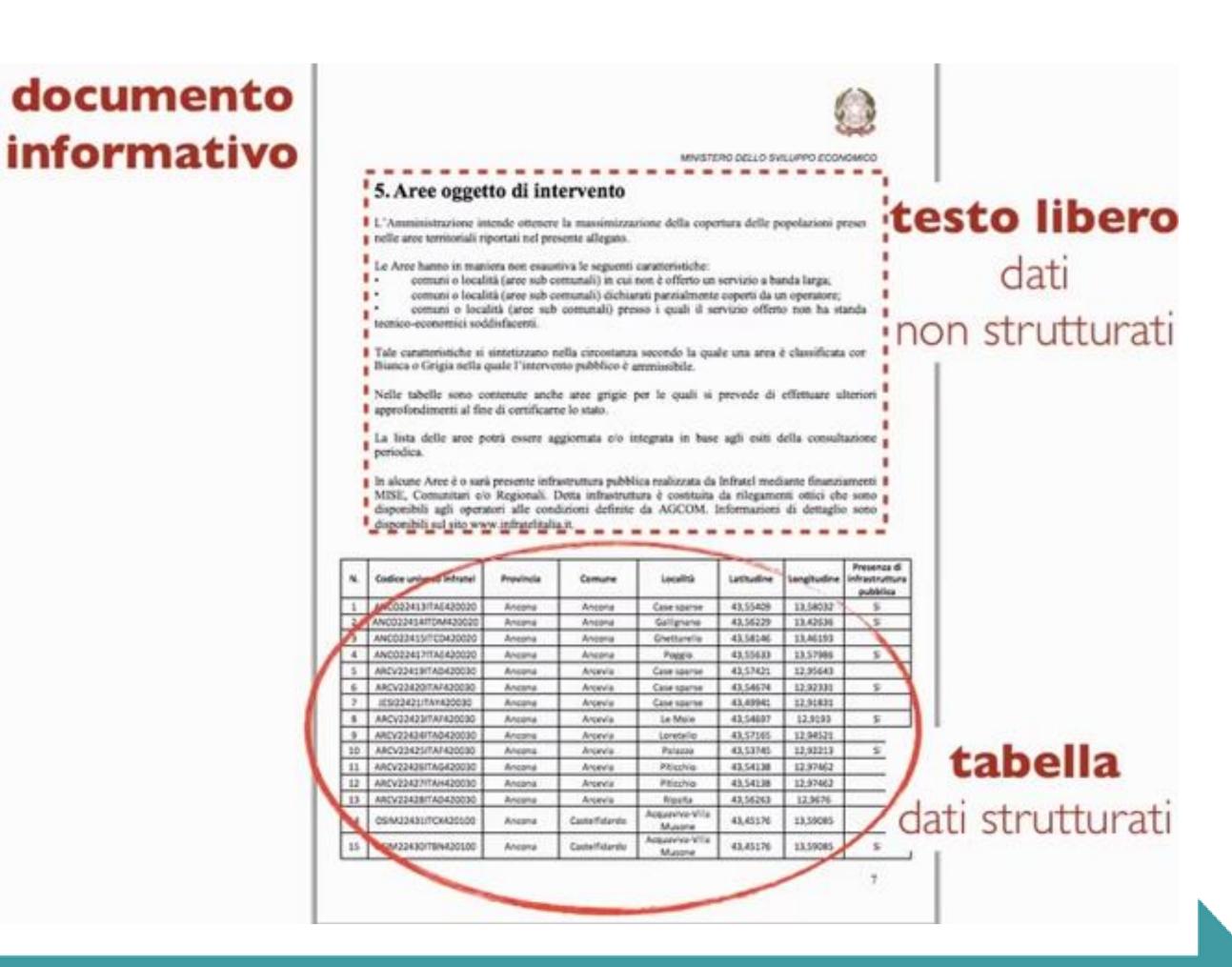
The data can be:

→ Descriptive text→ Structured data files





Structured and non-structured data can sometimes appear in the same document





ADMINISTRATIVE DATA



STATISTICAL DATA





Administrative data

are representations of reality and are collected and managed by public offices for providing services.

They are designed for the public records, land registry or financial statements, for example.





Statistical data come from censuses, surveys and processing of administrative data.

Processing is carried out on a sample or on the population of the entities/individuals studied. The collection, processing and analysis follows a precise methodology to assure the quality of the results.



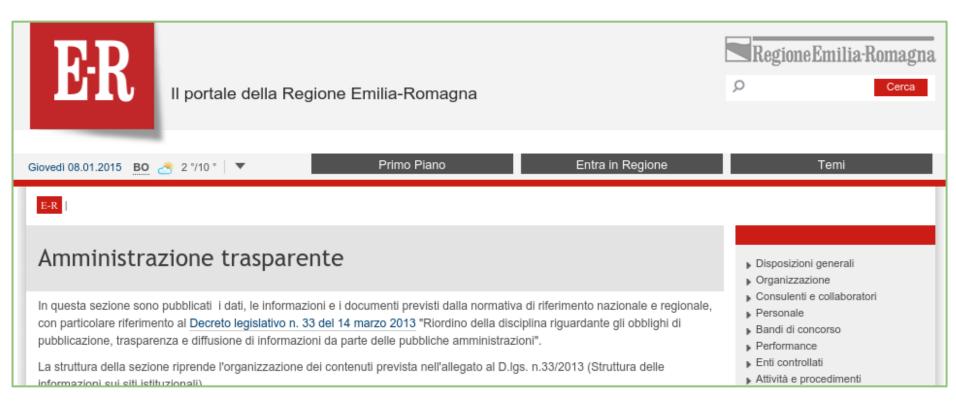




Where do we start to look?

First of all, on Public Administration websites...









To identify the source, you need to know:

- how the PA works
- → what are the tasks of its management levels





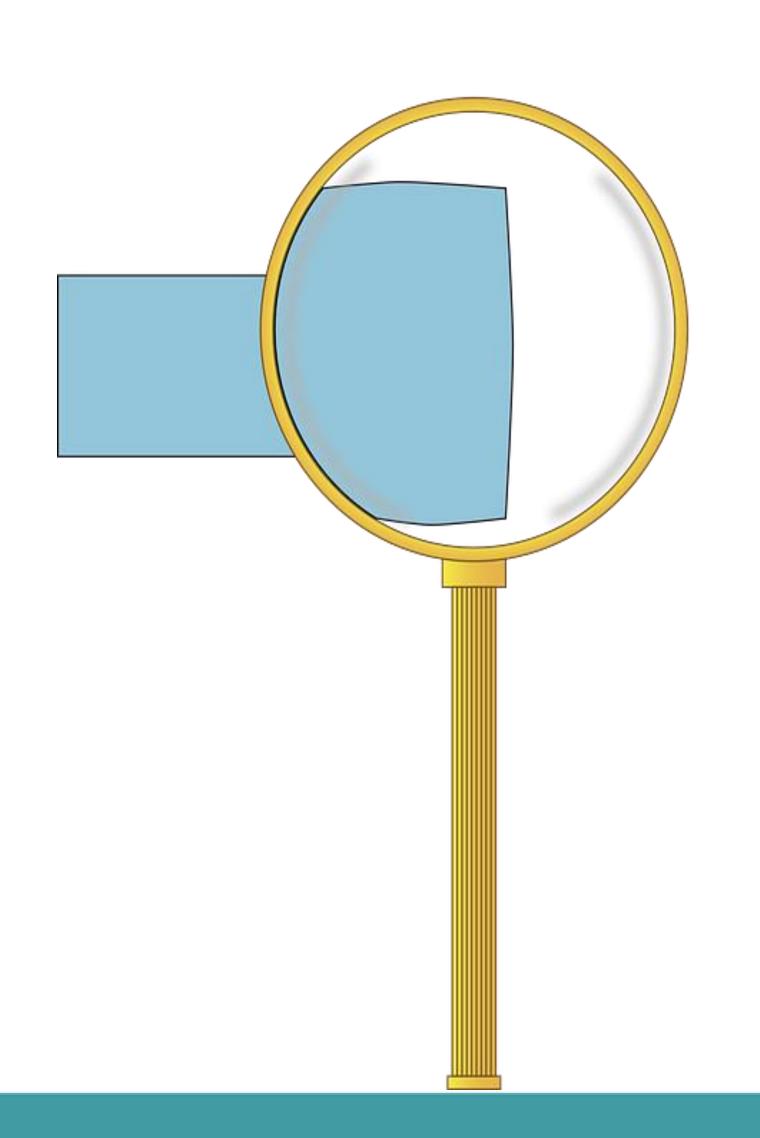
... and if we do not find the data we are looking for?



Follow other routes

Some examples...





CASE 1

The data cannot be found on the website of the relevant office...

√check that it is the right office for generating the data

√find the details on...



- √ Find an alternative data source
- √Try to build a comparative (international) analysis of the topics you are interested in, for example by having a look at: https://data.europa.eu, or even http://www.data.gov
- ✓Use a search engine (e.g. Google) and enter the keywords of the chosen topic (e.g. "traffic" or "environment") together with "data" or "opendata"





CASE 2 I found the information but it does not seem complete

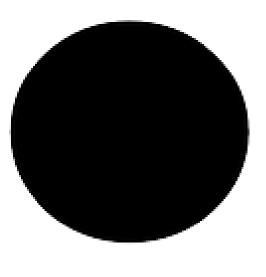
It's possible that the required data are generated by more than one entity and can be found in different places.



Reconstruct the chain of information to understand which are the data sources







CASE 3

The data are not published online or are not up to date



Not all offices publish or update the data for various reasons, from inertia to the cost of digitisation or presentation of information



If the PA has failed to publish information, a person may request what he or she is looking for, asking for it to be published.

Try to call the offices, it might work!





Many countries in the world have adopted shared rules on transparency of PA information, enshrined in law as a **FOIA (Freedom of Information Act)**.



PRACTICAL ADVICE



Usually the higher you go in government levels, the more frequently you find actions relating to the entire national territory, or relating to a long period (long-term planning)

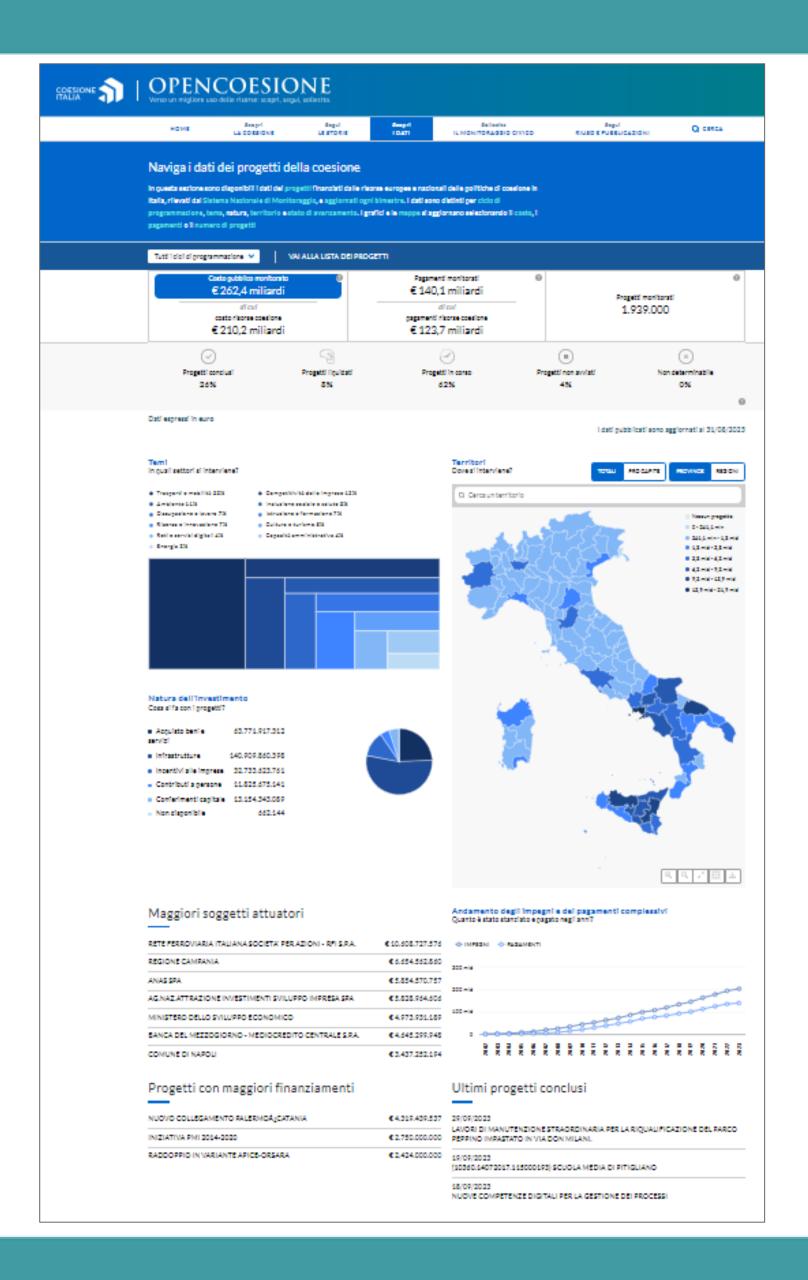




2

Don't be satisfied!

Cross information and diversify sources: your research must seek to be rich and contextualised.





3

Pay attention to the <u>quality of the source</u>: always check that sources are reliable. Data do not always come from public sources alone. Especially where they come from private entities, check for completeness and accuracy.

Lastly... always cite your sources!











Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri Dipartimento per le Politiche di Coesione

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