

Benefacts | Civil Society Online

Presentation to the
Open Data Governance Board
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Benefacts

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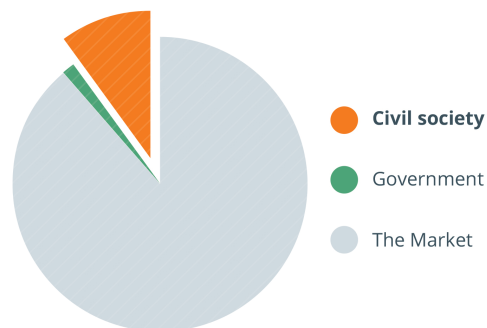
Shared values and goals

- Better, more accessible data to support decision-making, innovation, collaboration, efficiencies
- Higher data quality
- Greater transparency: better informed citizens
- Re-distributing data to empower all stakeholders

Who/what we are

- Civil society initiative, active since Q1 2015
- Nonprofit entity accountable to funders, stakeholders, the public
- A practical focus:
 - 1 Creating a dynamic database of Irish civil society organisations derived from regulatory disclosures
 - 2 Publishing the data through free web-based services
 - 3 Working with others to put the data to work for the benefit of nonprofits and their stakeholders

ENTITIES IN OUR SCOPE

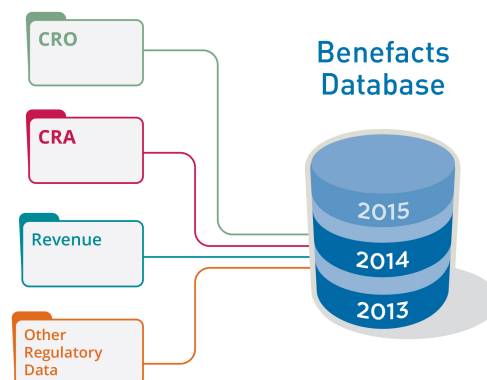


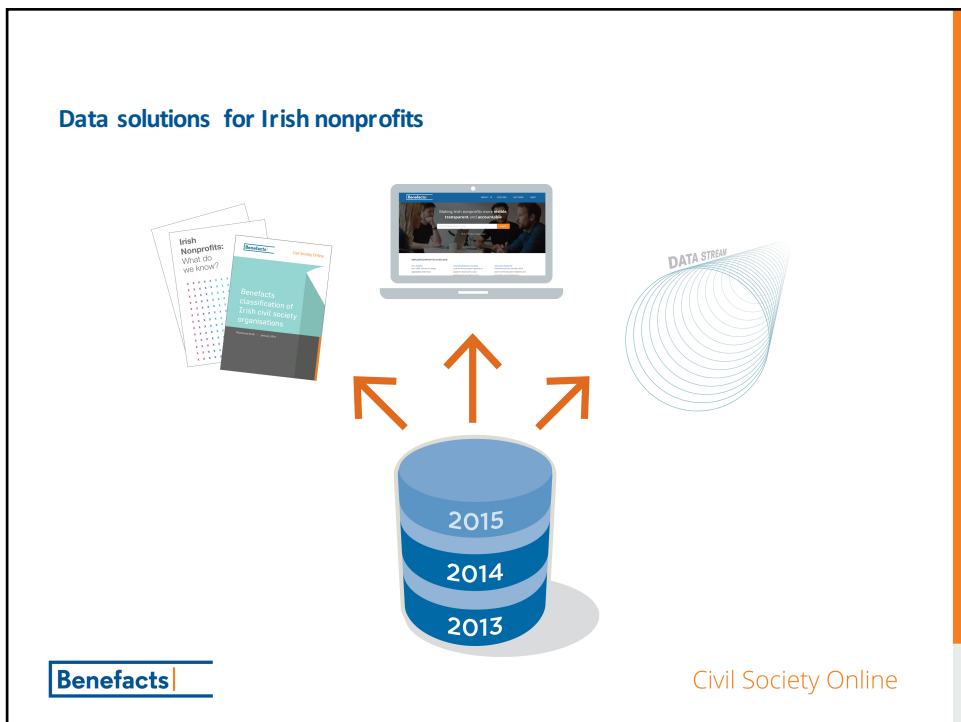
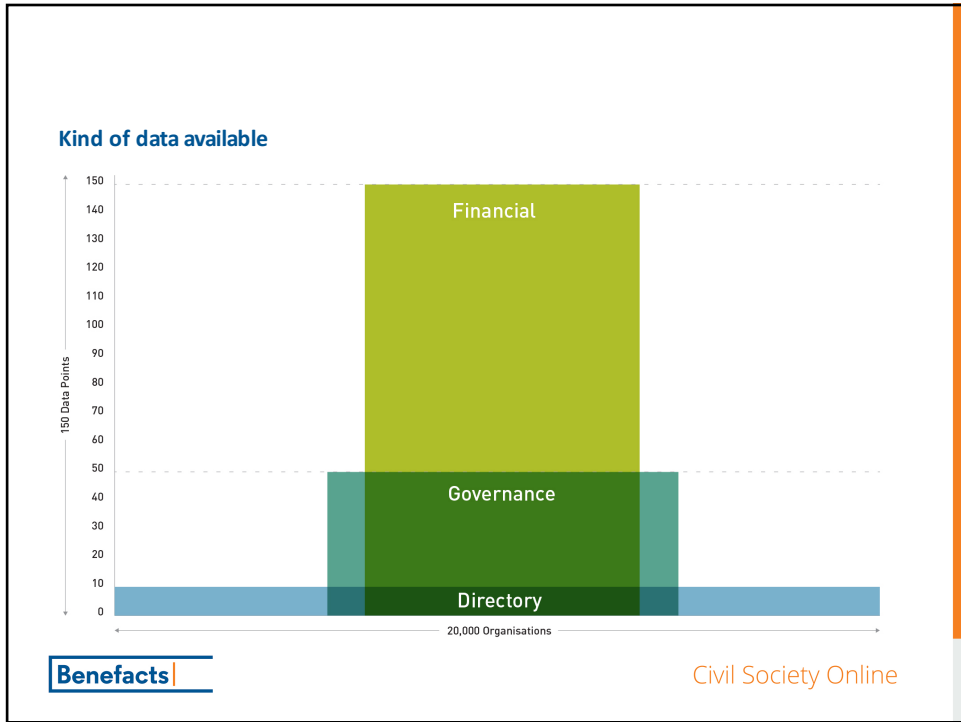
(society)

Civil engineers, committed to making all Irish nonprofits more transparent and accessible

- 1 Open Data-takers (not data-givers)
- 2 No regulatory responsibilities (or powers)
- 3 Not representing any sector
- 4 Not involved in rating or standard-setting
- 5 Building an impartial public infrastructure to provide
 - A single view of the entire sector
 - Sector classification based on international norms
 - Governance and financial data collected, normalised and stored consistently year-on-year

No action needed by nonprofits to be included in the Benefacts database





For launch in May 2016:

The screenshot shows the Benefacts website interface. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with the 'Benefacts' logo on the left and links for 'ABOUT', 'EXPLORE', 'API', and 'NEED HELP?' on the right. Below the navigation bar is a large image of a group of people, mostly older adults, with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. Overlaid on this image is the text 'The database of Irish nonprofits'. Below this text is a search bar containing the text 'Search 18,807 nonprofits in Ireland' and an orange 'Search' button. Underneath the search bar, it says 'Irish Civil Society online'. Below the image, there is a white box with the text 'TODAY THERE ARE 18,807 ORGANISATIONS IN THE [BENEFACTS DATABASE](#)'. At the bottom of the screenshot is a semi-circular sunburst chart showing the distribution of nonprofits across different sectors. The chart is divided into four main colored segments: yellow (Recreation_Sports), purple (Arts_Culture_Media), green (Environment), and teal (Advocacy_Law_Politics). A legend to the right of the chart provides the following data:

710	Arts_Culture_Media	288	Environment
3,342	Recreation_Sports	254	Advocacy_Law_Politics

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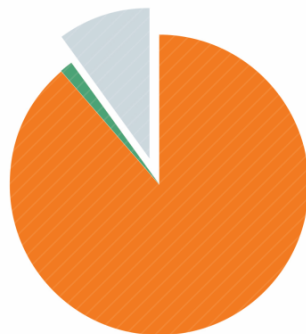
Re-purposing public data – the challenges...

1. The definition of entities in scope means getting data from at least 12 different public sources
2. Up to 6 sources of data for some nonprofits – lots of inconsistencies
3. Some Open Data, some not
4. The richest data isn't digital at all

... and the rewards

1. A better-informed public
2. "File once-only" – potential efficiencies for nonprofits and their funders and regulators
3. Donor confidence based on transparency
4. Trend and comparative data supports evidence-based analysis and planning
5. Incalculable opportunities for social innovation

A sector hidden in plain view



- Limited public comprehension of scope, extent, profile
- High transaction costs
- Lots of accountability, little transparency
- No business intelligence

A sector ...

Employing 100,000+ people

With turnover in excess of €6bn

50,000 directors/trustees serving in its governance

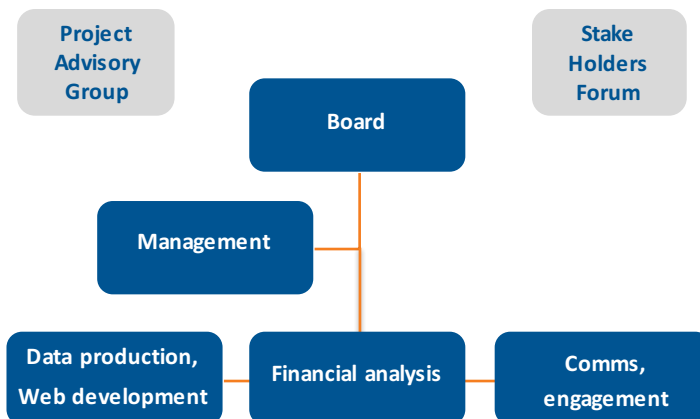
500,000 volunteers

300+ reported sources of public funding

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Benefacts structure, project accountability and governance



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Thank you

Patricia Quinn

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