Benefacts

Civil Society Online

Presentation to the **Open Data Governance Board** 04-Apr-2016

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Managing Director
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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

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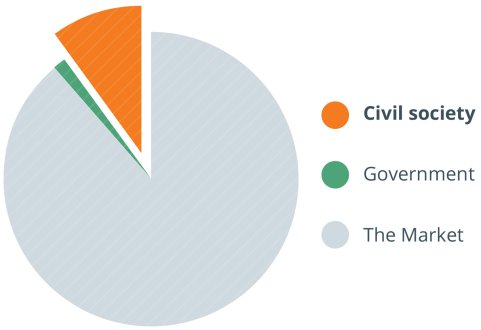
Who/what we are

- 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



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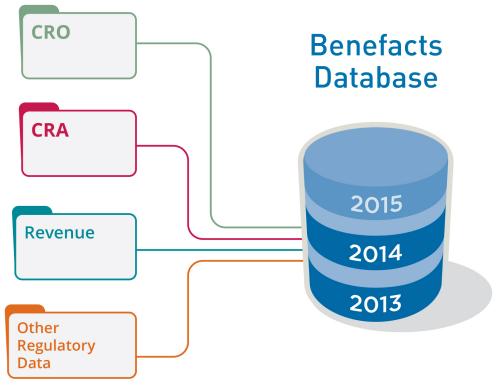
Civil (society) engineers, committed to making all Irish nonprofits more transparent and accessible

1. Open Data-takers (not data-givers)
2. No regulatory responsibilities (or powers)
3. Not representating 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



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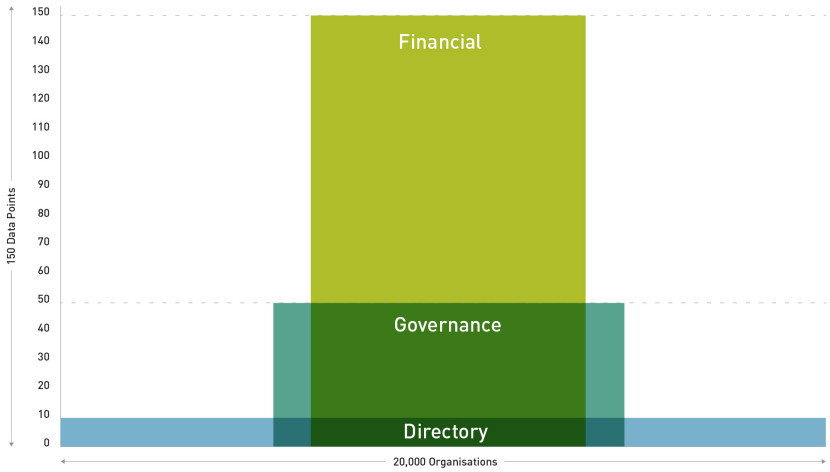
Kind of data available



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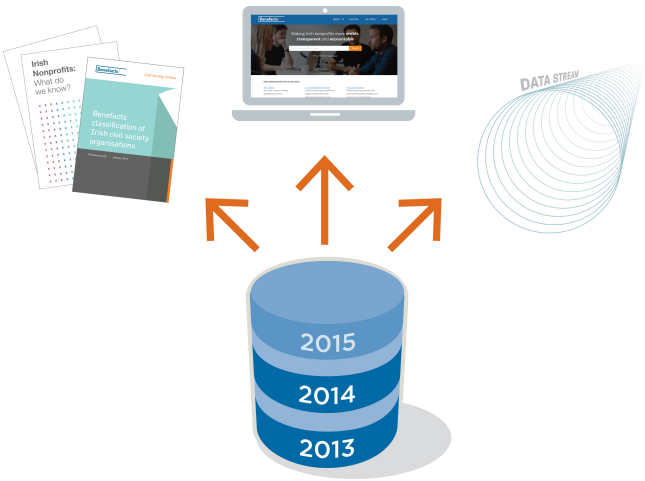
Data solutions for Irish nonprofits



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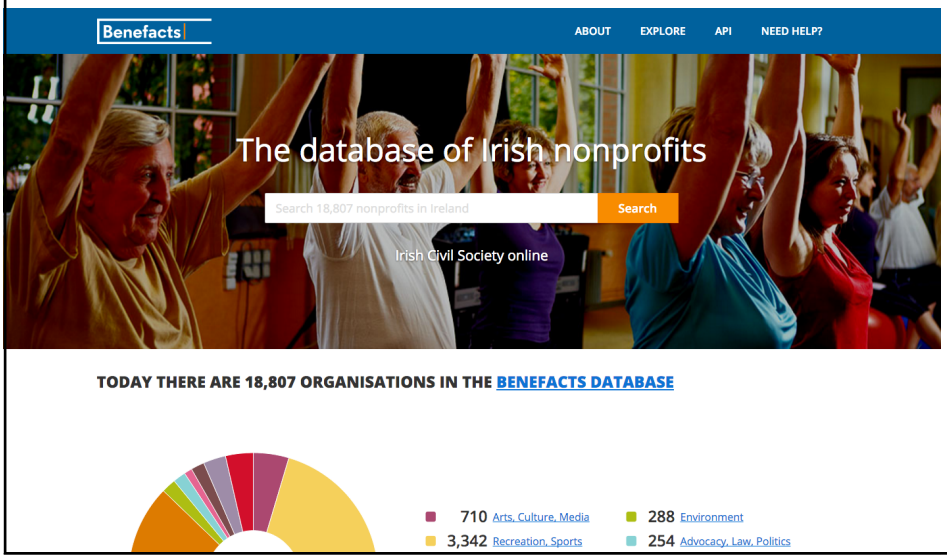
For launch in May 2016:



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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

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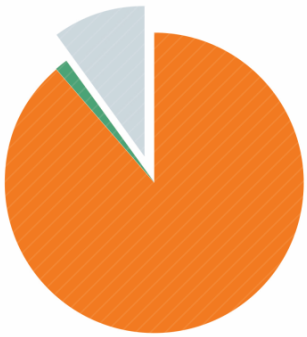
… and the rewards

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

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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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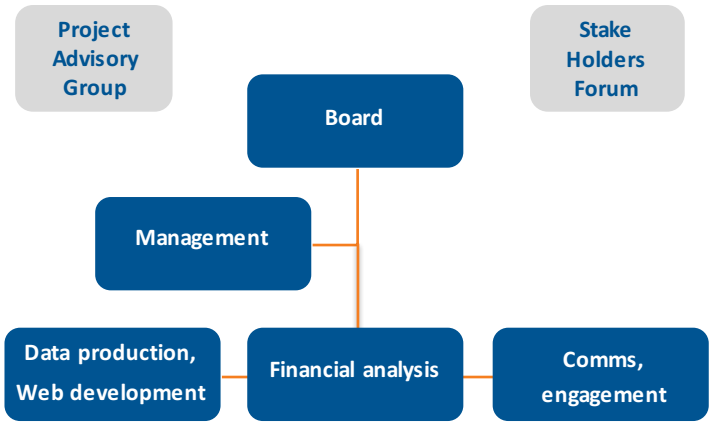
Benefacts structure, project accountability and governance



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Thank you

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