

Factsheet – Step 6

Data licenses

What are data licenses?

A data license is the legal framework for granting permission to access, use, share and monetize data. This is crucial in the evolving landscape of information exchange, enabling responsible and ethical data utilization, and a data license is always required one way or another.

Key aspects of data licenses

1. **Data ownership:** Clarifies who owns the data and has the right to license it. It may be the original data creator, an organization, or a collaborative effort between multiple parties.
2. **Usage rights:** Specifies how the data can be used, whether for personal, commercial or research purposes. Restrictions and permissions are clearly outlined.
3. **Duration:** Defines the time frame during which the license is valid. It could be a one-time use, a specific project duration, or an ongoing agreement.
4. **Geographical limitations:** Some licenses may restrict data usage to specific geographic regions, ensuring compliance with local laws and regulations.
5. **Attribution requirements:** Specifies whether users must provide attribution to the data source when using or sharing the data.

Types of data licenses

1. **Open data license:** Allows for the free use, modification and sharing of data without significant restrictions. Common open licenses include Creative Commons licenses.
2. **Commercial data license:** Imposes restrictions and may involve a fee for the use of data for commercial purposes. Terms vary widely depending on the agreement.
3. **Non-commercial data license:** Permits the use of data for non-commercial purposes only, often with fewer restrictions compared to commercial licenses.
4. **Exclusive license:** Grants exclusive rights to a single entity, preventing others from using or licensing the same dataset during the license period.