

eCH-0200 – DCAT Application Profile for Data Portals in Switzerland (DCAT-AP CH) v2

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Summary

The DCAT Application Profile for Data Portals in Switzerland (DCAT-AP CH) is based on Data Catalog Vocabulary (DCAT¹) which is intended for describing the data recorded in Swiss data portals (e.g. opendata.swiss). Its target group is the operators of data portals in Switzerland (referred to in DCAT terminology as "Data Receivers") and the providers of these data who maintain data catalogues (referred to in DCAT terminology as "Data Senders").

As a rule, data portals do not provide the data themselves, but only metadata on the data within data catalogues. Their purpose is to make locating and reusing of data possible. Therefore, DCAT-AP CH focuses primarily on the description of metadata.

DCAT-AP CH is also intended for ensuring compatibility with the Application Profile for Data Portals in Europe (DCAT-AP). Since this ceased to be the case with Version 1, the present Version 2 has been defined within the framework of the eCH "Open Government Data" working group. This ensures the highest possible compatibility with DCAT-AP (current version 2.1.0).

¹DCAT: Data Catalog Vocabulary - Version 2. URL: https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat



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1 Introduction

1.1 Status

Approved: This document was approved by the Experts' Committee. It has normative power for the defined field of application in the determined scope of application.

1.2 Area of application

The DCAT Application Profile for data portals in Switzerland (DCAT-AP CH) is an Application Profile of the DCAT vocabulary and a Subprofile of the European Application Profile DCAT-AP.

- **DCAT** ("**Data Catalog Vocabulary**")² is a semantic definition to describe data by the means of an RDF vocabulary. It allows for a decentralized approach regarding the publication of data by enforcing interoperability via the use of a common language to describe the data.
- Being DCAT a generic language, it can be applied in various contexts. An Application Profile
 specifies its utilization within a specific domain, context or application, with the goal of
 facilitating data exchange. In particular it adds more specificity by identifying mandatory,
 recommended and optional elements to be used for a particular application, as well as
 recommendations for controlled vocabularies to be used.
- In Europe **DCAT-AP**³ was defined as the main Application Profile, which then assumed the role of a *de facto* standard within Europe.
- Based on DCAT-AP, several European Countries defined their own localized, tailored to their specific needs, Application Profiles⁴. So, the Swiss community defined DCAT-AP CH, to provide guidance for Swiss data publishers on how to specify their data catalogues and to data portal managers on how to process data catalogues, in a DCAT-AP CH and DCAT-AP conformant manner, so that interoperability with DCAT-AP is assured

It should be always kept in mind that both DCAT-AP CH and DCAT-AP primarily focus on *metadata*. Metadata is by definition secondary information on the data: when and by whom were they published, which usage conditions apply, how often are they updated, whom to contact about them and where and how can they be accessed.

² DCAT: Data Catalog Vocabulary - Version 2. URL: https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat

³ <u>https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/semantic-interoperability-community-semic/solution/dcat-application-profile-data-portals-europe/release/210</u>

⁴ See https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/semantic-interoperability-community-semic/solution/dcat-application-profile-data-portals-europe/about, Chapter 8 for a list of the different national profiles and users



1.3 Overview changes from v1

The main focus of the eCH Expert Group by the creation of DCAT-AP CH v2 was to ensure the compatibility to DCAT-AP.

- All mandatory and recommended properties of DCAT-AP (v2.1.0) were adopted in DCAT-AP CH (v2).
- The Requirement level "conditional" was replaced by the "recommended", to align with the DCAT-AP's notation and concept.
- The cardinality and requirement levels were updated to make them compatible with DCAT-AP (see chapter 4 for more insights on the rational of the conformity to DCAT-AP).
- First DCAT and then DCAT-AP introduced the new class "Data Service"⁵, which is used to describe "a collection of operations that provides access to one or more datasets or data processing functions." The v2 of DCAT-AP CH adopts this new class too
- The informational structure defined by DCAT-AP CH v1 to inform about the legal framework (see in particular <u>dct:accessRights</u>, <u>dct:rights</u>, <u>dct:license</u> and their relationships) of data was aligned to the one utilized in DCAT-AP.
- The custom class dct:coverage on dcat:Dataset was removed, since it was considered to be redundant to other properties defined by DCAT-AP, in particular dct:spatial and dct:temporal
- The custom class rdfs:seeAlso on dcat:Dataset was removed, since it was considered to be redundant to other properties defined by DCAT-AP, in particular dct:relation

2 DCAT-AP CH: Building Blocks

2.1 DCAT as a universal vocabulary

The Application Profile specified in this document is based on the specification of the Data Catalog Vocabulary (DCAT) developed under the responsibility of the Government Linked Data Working Group at W3C⁶. DCAT is an RDF⁷ vocabulary designed to facilitate interoperability between data catalogues published on the Web. Additional classes and properties from other well-known vocabularies are re-used where necessary.

The DCAT vocabulary consists of classes and properties.

Classes are things on the internet: Not all of them have URIs, but it is recommended to
provide a URI for them. They are complex things like a person, an organization, a dataset, a
website or a downloadable data file.

⁵ https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat-2/#Class:Data_Service

⁶ W3C. Government Linked Data (GLD) Working Group. http://www.w3.org/2011/gld/wiki/Main_Page

W3C. Resource Description Framework (RDF). http://www.w3.org/RDF/



- Classes have properties: The properties are the attributes describing these things. Some properties occur in more than one class, a title for example is a common attribute. Other properties are very specialized such as a file format that only makes sense for a data file.
- **Properties can be simple or complex**: Some properties are classes. For example, an organization can have a website. Or a dataset can have a data publisher. In general, a class can be recognized by its spelling: A property name starts with a lowercase letter such as dcat:dataset, while a class starts with a capital letter such as dcat:Dataset.

Classes and properties are used to deliver the metadata in a structured way.

2.2 The core structure of DCAT-AP CH v2 replicates the core structure of DCAT-AP

Being a Subprofile of DCAT-AP, DCAT-AP CH replicates its core structure and concepts.

2.2.1 Classes

The Swiss Application Profile ("DCAT-AP CH") as well as the European Application Profile ("DCAT-AP") are structured around the following main 4 classes:

Class name	Usage note for the Application Profile	URI	Reference
Catalogue	A catalogue or repository that hosts the Datasets or Data Services being described.	dcat:Catalog	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat- 2/#Class:Catalog
Dataset	A conceptual entity that represents the information published.	dcat:Dataset	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat- 2/#Class:Dataset
Distribution	A physical embodiment of the Dataset in a particular format.	dcat:Distribu tion	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat- 2/#Class:Distribution
Data Service	A collection of operations that provides access to one or more datasets or data processing functions.	dcat:DataSe rvice	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat- 2/#Class:Data_Service

Note that in the previous versions of DCAT-AP and DCAT-AP CH, classes were categorised to be mandatory, recommended and optional, like it's currently the case for properties. This categorisation has been removed in favour of the above overview and guidelines to create a common expectation for DCAT-AP catalogues.

To improve the coherency by the description of shared Dataset, Distribution and the new introduced class Data Services, DCAT-AP provided guidelines on their usage:

https://github.com/SEMICeu/DCAT-AP/blob/2.1.0-draft/releases/2.1.0/usageguide-dataset-distribution-dataservice.md .



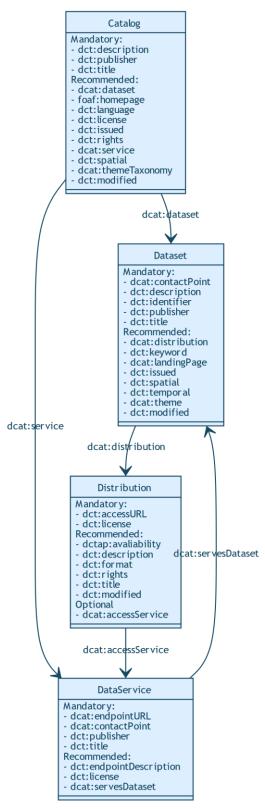


Figure 1 Overview of DCAT-AP CH classes with their properties and relationship



2.3 Requirement levels

CAT-AP CH defines four requirement levels for data receivers and senders:

- **Mandatory** property: a receiver MUST be able to process the information for that property; a sender MUST provide the information for that property.
- **Recommended** property: a receiver MUST be able to process the information for that property; a sender SHOULD provide the information for that property if it is available.
- **Optional** property: a receiver MUST be able to process the information for that property; a sender MAY provide the information for that property but is not obliged to do so.
- Deprecated property: a receiver SHOULD be able to process information about instances of that property; a sender SHOULD NOT provide the information about instances of that property.

The meaning of the terms MUST, MUST NOT, SHOULD and MAY in this section and in the following sections are as defined in RFC 2119⁸.

In the given context, the term "processing" means that receivers MUST accept incoming data and transparently provide these data to applications and services. It does neither imply nor prescribe what applications and services finally do with the data (parse, convert, store, make searchable, display to users, etc.).

2.4 Controlled vocabularies of DCAT-AP CH v2

In the table below, a number of properties are listed with controlled vocabularies (CV) that MUST be used for the listed properties.

Where possible the same controlled vocabularies as DCAT-AP were utilized⁹. However not every vocabulary proposed by DCAT-AP is currently applied for DCAT-AP CH v2. In some cases, the eCH-Expert Group is still evaluating the application of the proposed vocabulary, while in other cases the eCH-Expert Group decided to evaluate the introduction of a new, Swiss-specific vocabulary. In particular for the property dct:publisher, which refers to an entity (organisation) responsible for making a Catalogue, a Dataset or a Data Service available, a CV is still being discussed within the eCH-Expert Group "Open Government Data" - its introduction will be evaluated for the next iterations of this standard eCH-0200.

Property URI	Used for	Vocabulary name	Vocabulary URI	Usage note
	Class			
dcatap:availa	Distributio	Distribution	http://publications.europa.eu/re	The list of terms for the availability
bility	n	availability vocabulary	source/authority/planned- availability	levels of a dataset distribution in the DCAT-AP specification.
		vocabulary	availability	the DCAT-AF specification.

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⁸ IETF. RFC 2119. Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels. http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt

⁹ Siehe DCAT-AP v2.1.0, Chapter 5 "Controlled Vocabularies"



Property URI	Used for Class	Vocabulary name	Vocabulary URI	Usage note
dct:accessRig hts	Dataset, Data Service	Access Rights Named Authority List	http://publications.europa.eu/re source/authority/access-right	
dct:accrualPer iodicity	Dataset	EU Vocabularies Freq uency Named Authority List ¹⁰	http://publications.europa.eu/re source/authority/frequency	
dct:format	Distributio n	EU Vocabularies File Type Named Authority List ¹¹	http://publications.europa.eu/re source/authority/file-type	
dct:language	Catalogue , Dataset, Catalogue Record, Distributio n	EU Vocabularies Languages Named Authority List	http://publications.europa.eu/re source/authority/language	
Dct:license	Distributio n	Swiss Controlled Vocabulary for Licences and Terms of Use	https://dcat- ap.ch/vocabulary/licenses/202 10623.html	Within the federal level only the "Terms of use opendata.swiss are applicable"
dcat:mediaTy pe	Distributio n	IANA Media Types ¹²	http://www.iana.org/assignmen ts/media-types/media- types.xhtml	
dct:spatial	Catalogue , Dataset	EU Vocabularies Continents Named Authority List, EU Vocabularies Countries Named Authority List, EU Vocabularies Places Named Authority List, Geonames	http://publications.europa.eu/re source/authority/continent/, http://publications.europa.eu/re source/authority/country, http://publications.europa.eu/re source/authority/place/,	

¹⁰ EUROPA. Publications Office of the EU. EU Vocabularies. Controlled Vocabularies. Authority tables. Frequency. https://publications.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/at-dataset/-/resource/dataset/frequency

¹¹ EUROPA. Publications Office of the EU. EU Vocabularies. Controlled Vocabularies. Authority tables. File type. https://publications.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/at-dataset/-/resource/dataset/file-type

¹² Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA). Media Types http://www.iana.org/assignments/media-types



Property URI	Used for Class	Vocabulary name	Vocabulary URI	Usage note
dcat:theme	Dataset	Dataset Theme Vocabulary	http://publications.europa.eu/re source/authority/data-theme	The values to be used for this property are the URIs of the concepts in the vocabulary.
				A possible (non-normative) "mapping" to the current themes on opendata.swiss is proposed here: https://dcat- ap.ch/vocabulary/themes/2021062 3.html
dcat:themeTa xonomy	Catalogue	Dataset Theme Vocabulary	http://publications.europa.eu/re source/dataset/data-theme	The value to be used for this property is the URI of the vocabulary itself, i.e. the concept scheme, not the URIs of the concepts in the vocabulary.

2.5 Multilingualism

Switzerland is a multilingual country. Therefore, supporting multiple languages is particularly important. For this reason, DCAT-AP CH defines guidelines regarding the content and the technical publication of this content in different languages.

In terms of content:

- Organisations at the federal level MUST provide metadata in at least 2 official languages, for instance German and French or Italian and German.
- Every other organisation MUST provide this metadata in at least one of the following four languages: English, German, French or Italian. The specification in other languages is optional.

From a technical perspective multilingualism SHOULD be handled as follows:

Multilingual literals: Properties of Range rdfs:Literal can be provided in multiple languages
by adding so called language encoded strings: these add the language as an ISO 639-1 two
letter code after the string in the way that is shown in the example below:

Example for localizing a rdfs:Literal:

@prefix dcat: <http://www.w3.org/ns/dcat#> .

@prefix dct: <http://purl.org/dc/terms/> .



• **Content negotiation**: Properties of Range rdfs:Resource SHOULD be URIs. It is important to use URIs that are language independent. Then the data publisher in the process of dispatching these URIs can use content negotiation.

Example for a rdfs:Resource that is language independent. The host of that landing page can redirect a request coming in for 'https://opendata.swisstopo/1234/about' to a page that matches with the language of the user:

@prefix dcat: <http://www.w3.org/ns/dcat#> .

@prefix dct: <http://purl.org/dc/terms/> .

https://swisstopo/opendata/dataset/1234>

a dcat:Dataset;

dct:title "Holztürme im Kanton Zürich" @de,

"Wooden staircases in canton Zurich" @en.

The table lists multilingual properties of DCAT-AP CH and the translation strategies that apply to them:

Label	RDF property	Range	Multilingual Support
Catalog title	dct:title	rdfs:Literal	Language encoded string
Catalog description	dct:description	rdfs:Literal	Language encoded string
Dataset title	dct:title	rdfs:Literal	Language encoded string
Dataset description	dct:description	rdfs:Literal	Language encoded string
Dataset keyword	dcat:keyword	rdfs:Literal	Language encoded string
Catalog homepage	foaf:homepage	foaf:Docum ent	Content negotiation
Dataset landing Page	dcat:landingPage	foaf:Docum ent	Content negotiation



Label	RDF property	Range	Multilingual Support
Catalog publisher	dct:publisher	foaf:Agent	Content negotiation for the URI and language encoded string for the name
Dataset publisher	dct:publisher	foaf:Agent	Content negotiation for the URI and language encoded string for the name



3 DCAT-AP-CH: Properties per Class

3.1 Notation

- Property: denotes the label that the class or property is given in DCAT-AP and/or DCAT-AP CH.
- **URI**: denotes the property URI.
- Range: specifies the range of values that is expected for the property.
- **ReqLevel** ("Requirement level"): denotes whether the class / property is mandatory, recommended or optional.
- **Card** ("Cardinality"): specifies the minimum number of values that MUST be provided for that property and the maximum number of values that MAY be provided.
- Usage Note: specifies custom usage instructions and provides background information.
- CV ("Controlled Vocabulary"): defines which controlled vocabulary SHOULD be used.

3.2 Class: Catalogue

A Catalogue or repository that hosts the Datasets or Data Services being described.

DCAT-AP CH allows Catalogues of only Datasets, but also Catalogues of only Data Services, but usually it will be a mixture of both.

Property	URI	Range	Req Leve	Card	Usage Note
			I		
descripti on	dct:descripti on	rdfs:Literal	М	1n	 This property contains a free-text account of the data Catalogue (in the language indicated in the attribute). This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description (see Chapter 2.4 on Multilingualism).
publisher	dct:publishe r	foaf:Agent	M	11	This property refers to an entity (organisation) responsible for making the Catalogue available.
Title	dct:title	rdfs:Literal as an ISO 639-1 two letter code indicating the language	М	1n	 The title of the catalogue in the indicated language This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description (see Chapter 2.4 on Multilingualism)
dataset	dcat:dataset	dcat:Dataset	R	0n	 This property links the Catalogue with a Dataset that is part of the Catalogue. As empty Catalogues are usually indications of problems, this property SHOULD be combined with the property service to implement an empty Catalogue check.



Property	URI	Range	Req	Card	Usage Note
			Leve I		
homepag e	foaf:homepag e	foaf:Document	R	01	 This property refers to a web page that acts as the main page for the Catalogue For instance opendata.swiss, would be the homepage of the Swiss Catalogue exported to data.europa.eu.
language	dct:language	dct:LinguisticSystem	R	0n	 This property refers to a language used in the textual metadata describing titles, descriptions, etc. of the Datasets in the Catalogue. The properties title and description of Catalogues, Datasets or Distribution can be provided in multiple languages. In that case, it makes sense to also list these languages on the Catalogue level. CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority /language
license	dct:license	dct:LicenseDocume nt	R	01	 This property refers to the licence under which the Catalogue can be used or reused. CV to used: https://dcat-ap.ch/vocabulary/licenses/20210623.html
release date	dct:issued	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth	R	01	This property contains the date of formal issuance (e.g., first publication of the Catalogue).
Rights	dct:rights	dct:RightsStatement	R	01	This property refers to a statement that specifies rights associated with the Catalogue.
service	dcat:service	dcat:DataService	R	0n	 This property refers to a site or end-point (Data Service) that is listed in the Catalogue. As empty Catalogues are usually indications of problems, this property SHOULD be combined with the property Dataset to implement an empty Catalogue check.
spatial/ geographi c	dct:spatial	dct:Location	R	0n	 This property refers to a geographical area covered by the Catalogue. CV to be used: The EU Vocabularies Name Authority Lists MUST be used for continents, countries and places that are in those lists; if a particular location is not in one of the mentioned Named Authority Lists, Geonames URIs MUST be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/continent/ http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/country http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/place http://sws.geonames.org
themes	dcat:themeTa xonomy	skos:ConceptSchem e	R	0n	 This property refers to a knowledge organization system used to classify the Catalogue's Datasets. CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/dataset/data-theme



Property	URI	Range	Req Leve I	Card	Usage Note
update/ modificati on date	dct:modified	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth	R	01	This property contains the most recent date on which the Catalogue was modified.

3.3 Class: Dataset

A Dataset is a collection of data, published or curated by a single source and related by a common idea or concept. In contrast to a Data Service a Dataset is expected to be a collection of data that is available for access or download in one or more formats, as Distributions. Distributions belonging to the same Dataset should not differ in regards to the idea of the data that they represent. They may differ in regards to the physical representation of the data such as format or resolution. Or they may split the data of the dataset into portions of comparable size such as data per time period or location

DCAT-AP provides guidelines about the usage of Data services and Distribution in relation to Datasets: https://github.com/SEMICeu/DCAT-AP/blob/2.1.0-draft/releases/2.1.0/usageguide-dataset-distribution-dataservice.md.

Property	URI	Range	Req	Car	Usage Note
			Lev	d	
			el		
contact point	dcat:contact Point	vcard:Kind	M	1n	 This property contains contact information that can be used for sending comments about the Dataset. This property MUST contain an email address that is continuously monitored by the data publisher. If there are several contributors involved in the publication of the Dataset, the property can be used multiple times.
description	dct:descripti on	rdfs:Literal	M	1n	This property contains a free-text account of the Dataset. This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description (see Chapter 2.4 on Multilingualism). On the user interface of data portals, the content of the element whose language corresponds to the display language selected by the user is displayed.
identifier	dct:identifier	rdfs:Literal	М	1n	 This property contains the unique identifier for the Dataset, e.g. the URI or other unique identifier in the context of the Catalogue. The identifier may be used as part of the URI of the Dataset.
publisher	dct:publishe r	foaf:Agent	М	11	This property refers to an entity (organisation) responsible for making the Dataset available.



Property	URI	Range	Req Lev el	Car d	Usage Note
Title	dct:title	rdfs:Literal	М	1n	 This property contains a name given to the Dataset. This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description (see Chapter 2.4 on Multilingualism).
dataset distribution	dcat:distributi on	dcat:Distribution	R	0n	 This property links the Dataset to an available Distribution. In exceptional cases, a Dataset for which no distribution form exists (yet) can be described in the Catalogue. In this case, the element dcat:distribution may be omitted.
keyword/tag	dcat:keyword	rdfs:Literal	R	0n	 This property contains a keyword or tag describing the Dataset. If a suitable keyword is available in TERMDAT (termdat.bk.admin.ch) then this SHOULD be used. Good practice: mark the language of the keywords with the ISO 639-1 language code such as "geodata" @en.
landing page	dcat:landingP age	foaf:Document	R	0n	 This property refers to a web page that provides access to the Dataset, its Distributions and/or additional information. It is intended to point to a landing page at the original data provider, not to a page on a site of a third party, such as an aggregator.
release date	dct:issued	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth	R	01	 This property contains the date of formal issuance (e.g., first publication of the Dataset). If this date is not known, the date of the first referencing of the data collection in the Catalogue can be entered.
spatial/ geographical coverage	dct:spatial	dct:Location	R	0n	 This property refers to a geographic region that is covered by the Dataset. CV to be used: The EU Vocabularies Name Authority Lists MUST be used for continents, countries and places that are in those lists; if a particular location is not in one of the mentioned Named Authority Lists, Geonames URIs MUST be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/author ity/continent/ http://publications.europa.eu/resource/author ity/country http://publications.europa.eu/resource/author ity/place http://sws.geonames.org
temporal coverage	dct:temporal	dct:PeriodOfTime	R	0n	This property refers to a temporal period that the Dataset covers.
theme/categ ory	dcat:theme, subproperty of dct:subject	skos:Concept	R	0n	 This property refers to a category of the Dataset. A Dataset may be associated with multiple themes. CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/author ity/data-theme



Property	URI	Range	Req	Car	Usage Note
		9	Lev	d	3
			el		
update/ modification date	dct:modified	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:date, xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth	R	01	 This property contains the most recent date on which the Dataset was changed or modified. No value may indicate that the Dataset has never changed after its initial publication, or that the date of the last modification is not known, or that the Dataset is continuously updated This property MUST only be set if the distributions (the actual data) that the Dataset describes have been updated after it has been issued. In this case the property MUST contain the date of the last update. That way a person or institution using the data for an analysis or application will know when to update the report or application on their side.
access rights	dct:accessRi ghts	dct:RightsStatement	О	01	 This property refers to information that indicates whether the Dataset is open data, has access restrictions or is not public. CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/author ity/access-right
conforms to	dct:conforms To	dct:Standard	0	0n	 This property refers to an implementing rule or other specification. This property SHOULD be used to indicate the model, schema, ontology, view or profile that this representation of a Dataset conforms to. This is (generally) a complementary concern to the media-type or format.
documentati on	foaf:page	foaf:Document	0	0n	This property refers to a page or document about this Dataset.
frequency	dct:accrualPe riodicity	dct:Frequency	0	01	 This property refers to the frequency at which the Dataset is updated. CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/author ity/frequency
image	schema:imag e	schema:url or schema:lmageObjec t	0	01	 A thumbnail picture illustrating the content of the Dataset. For distributions that consist of visual content (photographs, videos, maps, etc.) it makes sense to add a limited number of thumbnails to the metadata. It's a DCAT-AP CH Custom Class (not present in DCAT-AP)
is referenced by	dct:isReferen cedBy	rdfs:Resource	0	0n	This property is about a related resource, such as a publication, that references, cites, or otherwise points to the Dataset.
language	dct:language	dct:LinguisticSystem	0	0n	 This property refers to a language of the Dataset. This property can be repeated if there are multiple languages in the Dataset. CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/author ity/language



Property	URI	Range	Req Lev el	Car d	Usage Note
qualified attribution	prov:qualified Attribution	prov:Attribution	0	0n	This property refers to a link to an Agent having some form of responsibility for the resource
qualified relation	dcat:qualified Relation	dcat:Relationship	0	0n	 This property provides a link to a description of a relationship with another resource and it's especially meant for relationships between Dataset. It replaces the property rdfs:seeAlso of DCAT-AP CH v1. See here for examples on how to use it: https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat-2/%23Class:Relationship#qualified-relationship.
related resource	dct:relation	rdfs:Resource	0	0n	 This property refers to a related resource where the relationship cannot be further specified as a dcat:qualifiedRelationship. This may be additional material such as an article, example or documentation helpful in the context of the Dataset. The element can also be used to link to legal foundations that apply to the publication or usage of the Dataset .

3.4 Class: Distribution

A metadata entry of this class describes a distribution of the data, which is a specific representation of a Dataset. A Dataset might be available in multiple serializations that may differ in various ways, including natural language, media-type or format, schematic organization, temporal and spatial resolution, level of detail or profiles (which might specify any or all of the above).

The distribution can contain all the data of the Dataset or it can contain just a part of the data. For example: it can contain all data about the population in Switzerland or it can contain just one year of this data, say the year 2018. It can also contain the data in an alternative data format, for example a graphical presentation of the data for the years 1990 up to 2010.

DCAT-AP allows the representation of various relationships within Dataset or between Datasets: The simplest relationship is the aggregation of various physical representations of data ("Distributions") into a Dataset . One possible such Dataset would be a time series where each distribution covers one year of the data and the Dataset spans several years.

A distribution represents a general availability of a Dataset. It implies no information about the actual access method of the data, i.e. whether by direct download or through a Web page. The use of dcat:downloadURL property indicates directly downloadable distributions.

DCAT-AP provides guidelines about the usage of Data services and Distribution in relation to Dataset: https://github.com/SEMICeu/DCAT-AP/blob/2.1.0-draft/releases/2.1.0/usageguide-dataset-distribution-dataservice.md.



Property	URI	Range	Req Lev el	Card	Usage Note
access URL	dcat:accessURL	rdfs:Resource	M	1n	This property contains a URL that gives access to a Distribution of the Dataset. The resource at the access URL may contain information about how to get the Dataset.
license	dct:license	dct:LicenseDocu ment	M	11	 This property refers to the licence under which the Distribution is made available. CV to be used: https://dcat-ap.ch/vocabulary/licenses/20210623.html
availability	dcatap:availability	skos:Concept	R	01	This property indicates how long it is planned to keep the Distribution of the Dataset available.
description	dct:description	rdfs:Literal	R	0n	 This property contains a free-text account of the Distribution. The description MUST be provided if the distribution contains only part of the data offered by the Dataset. This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description (see Chapter 2.4 on Multilingualism).
format	dct:format	dct:MediaTypeOrE xtent	R	01	This property refers to the file format of the Distribution. CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/file-type If a format is not available:



Property	URI	Range	Req Lev el	Card	Usage Note
access service	dcat:accessServi ce	dcat:DataService	0	0n	This property refers to a data service that gives access to the distribution of the Dataset
byte size	dcat:byteSize	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:decimal	0	01	 This property contains the size of a Distribution in bytes. If the precise size is not known, an
Checksum	spdx:checksum	spdx:Checksum	0	01	 approximate size can be indicated. This property provides a mechanism that can be used to verify that the contents of a distribution have not changed. The checksum is related to the downloadURL.
Coverage	dct:coverage	dct:LocationPeriod OrJurisdiction	0	0n	 If a dataset contains distributions that differ regarding their content beyond just differences in format or resolution this property can be used to specify temporal or spatial coverage of the data that the distribution contains. It's a DCAT-AP CH Custom Class (not present in DCAT-AP).
Documenta tion	foaf:page	foaf:Document	0	0n	This property refers to a page or document about this Distribution.
download URL	dcat:downloadUR L	rdfs:Resource	0	0n	In case of a downloadable file, it is good practice to repeat the mandatory accessURL in this more specific property, to indicate to the data user that the distribution has this extra characteristic of being downloadable. The downloadURLs MAY thus be the same as the accessURLs but they MAY also differ.
identifier	dct:identifier	rdfs:Literal	0	01	 An identifier for the distribution, that identifies it as a resource mainly for the organisation publishing the data. It's a DCAT-AP CH Custom Class (not present in DCAT-AP).
image	schema:image	schema:url or schema:lmageObj ect	0	03	 A thumbnail picture illustrating the content of the Distribution. For distributions that consist of visual content (photographs, videos, maps, etc.) it makes sense to add a limited number of thumbnails to the metadata. It's a DCAT-AP CH Custom Class (not present in DCAT-AP).
Language	dct:language	dct:LinguisticSyste m	0	0n	 This property refers to a language used in the Distribution. This property can be repeated if the metadata is provided in multiple languages. The property MUST be set if the distribution is language-dependent, or if it is given in some of the languages German, French, Italian and English but not in all four languages. CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/language



Property	URI	Range	Req Lev el	Card	Usage Note
linked schemas	dct:conformsTo	dct:Standard	0	0n	This property refers to an established schema to which the described Distribution conforms.
media type	dcat:mediaType, subproperty of dct:format	dct:MediaType	0	01	 This property refers to the media type of the Distribution as defined in the official register of media types managed by IANA. The value of the element "dcat:mediaType" must correspond to a MIME type according to IANA: https://www.iana.org/assignments/mediatypes/media-types.xhtml
packaging format	dcat:packageFor mat	dct:MediaType	0	01	 This property refers to the format of the file in which one or more data files are grouped together, e.g. to enable a set of related files to be downloaded together. It SHOULD be expressed using a media type as defined in the official register of media types managed by IANA.
release date	dct:issued	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth	0	01	 This property contains the date of formal issuance (e.g., publication) of the Distribution. Date of formal issuance (publication) of the distribution UsageThe first time issuance of the distribution.
temporal resolution	dcat:temporalRes olution	xsd:duration	0	01	This property refers to the minimum time period resolvable in the Dataset distribution.

3.5 Class: Data Service

A Data Service is a collection of operations that provides access to one or more Datasets or data processing functions. If a dcat:DataService is bound to one or more specified Datasets, they are indicated by the dcat:servesDataset property.

DCAT-AP provides guidelines about the usage of Data services and Distribution in relation to Datasets: https://github.com/SEMICeu/DCAT-AP/blob/2.1.0-draft/releases/2.1.0/usageguide-dataset-distribution-dataservice.md.

Property	URI	Range	Req Leve I	Card	Usage Note
endpoint URL	dcat:endpoint URL	rdfs:Resource	М	1n	The root location or primary endpoint of the service (an IRI).



Property	URI	Range	Req Leve	Card	Usage Note
Point	Dcat:contactp oint	vcard:Kind	M	1n	 This property contains contact information that can be used for sending comments about the Dataset. This property MUST contain an email address that is continuously monitored by the data publisher. If there are several contributors involved in the publication of the Dataset, the property can be used multiple times.
Publishe r	Dct:publisher	Foaf:agent	М	11	This property refers to an entity (organisation) responsible for making the Dataset available.
Title	dct:title	rdfs:Literal	M	1n	 This property contains a name given to the Data Service. This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the name (see Chapter 2.4 on Multilingualism). Organisations at the federal level SHOULD provide metadata in at least 2 official languages. Every other organisation MUST provide this metadata in at least one of the following four languages: English, German, French or Italian. The specification in other languages is optional.
endpoint descriptio n	dcat:endpointD escription	rdfs:Resource	R	0n	This property contains a description of the services available via the end-points, including their operations, parameters etc. The property gives specific details of the actual endpoint instances.
license	dct:license	dct:LicenseDoc ument	R	01	 This property refers to the licence under which the Data Service is made available. CV to be used: https://dcat-ap.ch/vocabulary/licenses/20210623.html
serves dataset	dcat:servesDat aset	dcat:Dataset	R	0n	This property refers to a collection of data that this data service can distribute.
access rights	dct:accessRigh ts	dct:RightsState ment	0	01	This property MAY include information regarding access or restrictions based on privacy, security, or other policies.
Documen tation	foaf:page	foaf:Document	0	0n	This property refers to a page or document about this Data Service.
Keyword	dcat:keyword	rdfs:Literal	0	0n	 This property contains a keyword or tag describing the Dataset. If available, the keyword from TERMDAT (termdat.bk.admin.ch) SHOULD be used.
Landing page	dcat:landingPa ge	foaf:Document	0	0n	This property refers to a web page that provides access to the Data Service and/or additional information. It is intended to point to a landing page at the original data provider, not to a page on a site of a third party, such as an aggregator.



4 Conformance to DCAT-AP

This section is non-normative.

DCAT-AP CH is a Subprofile of DCAT-AP and DCAT-AP is an application profile of DCAT.

The DCAT-Profile Guidance states that application profiles may form hierarchies.

There is a close collaboration between DCAT-AP and DCAT-AP CH which takes place mostly as an online discussion on GitHub at https://github.com/SEMICeu/DCAT-AP.

The following diagram captures the relationship between DCAT, DCAT-AP and DCAT-AP CH:

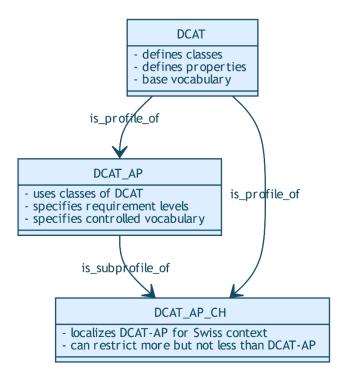


Figure 2 Conformance to DCAT-AP

For the aforementioned interoperability reasons, DCAT-AP CH aims to stay a sub-profile of DCAT-AP. Furthermore, this way it can be assured that metadata structured as DCAT-AP CH can be efficiently harvested by data.europa.eu.

DCAT-AP CH also aims for completeness, in the way that a data provider that only uses DCAT-AP CH as guidance should be able to form a data catalogue that automatically conforms to DCAT-AP.

Therefore:

- DCAT-AP CH contains all core classes currently known to be in DCAT-AP (Version 2.1.0, Chapter 3)
- DCAT-AP CH contains all currently known recommended and mandatory properties of DCAT-AP (Version 2.0.1). For these mentioned properties the usage conditions of DCAT-AP CH apply.



Properties of DCAT-AP or DCAT that are not mentioned in DCAT-AP CH are considered to be
optional. For these properties the usage conditions of DCAT-AP and DCAT apply in the
following order: if the property is part of DCAT-AP, DCAT-AP's usage conditions apply, if it is a
property of DCAT only, then DCAT's usage conditions apply

Custom properties in DCAT-AP CH

DCAT-AP CH MAY introduce Swiss specific properties and vocabulary, such as the list of cantons of Switzerland, which don't exist in the DCAT or DCAT-AP vocabulary. It SHOULD however not introduce its own (custom) properties that can already be expressed in DCAT with different vocabularies. In those cases, the DCAT-AP or DCAT vocabulary have to be used.

Therefore, some properties that were custom in Version 1 have been removed in Version 2 of DCAT-AP CH:

- dct:coverage on dcat:Dataset can be now be expressed by dct:temporal and dct:spatial
- rdfs:seeAlso on dcat:Dataset can now be expressed by dcat:qualifiedRelation

DCAT-AP CH still defines custom properties where a replacement by DCAT-AP or DCAT vocabulary is currently not considered possible or useful (in DCAT-AP Version 2.1.0):

- schema:image on dcat:Dataset and dcat:Distribution: this property is used to provide thumbnails for Distributions that contain visual data
- dct:coverage on dcat:Distribution is needed to model distributions of datasets as a series of data

5 Conformance to DCAT-AP CH

5.1 Data Provider requirements

A data catalogue conforms to DCAT-AP CH if:

- An RDF description of the catalogue is available
- All classes and properties defined in DCAT-AP CH v2 are used in a way consistent with the semantics declared in this specification.
- Properties not mentioned in this specification MAY be used if they are included in either DCAT-AP or DCAT and their usage conforms to DCAT-AP if they are included in DCAT-AP or to DCAT if they are only included in DCAT.

5.2 Receiver requirements

An application (data portal) conforms to DCAT-AP if:



- It is able to process RDF catalogues that conform to DCAT-AP CH.
- Processing means that it MUST accept incoming data and transparently provide this data to applications and services.
- Processing does not prescribe whether and how the metadata is stored internally, displayed or made searchable.
- This processing of metadata also applies to classes and properties not mentioned in DCAT-AP CH that are part of DCAT-AP or DCAT. A DCAT-AP CH conformant receiver MUST also be able to process these classes and properties].



6 Exclusion of liability / notice of third-party rights

eCH standards which the **eCH** association make available to the user for use free of charge or which reference **eCH**, have the status of recommendations only. The **eCH** Association is in no way liable for decisions or actions which the user makes and/or takes on the basis of these documents. The user is obliged to check the documents himself before using them and, if necessary, to seek advice. **eCH** standards cannot and are not intended to replace technical, organisational or legal advice in specific individual cases.

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Any liability for damages incurred by the user from the use of the **eCH** standards is excluded to the extent permitted by law.

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Anyone who develops **eCH** standards retains the intellectual property rights themselves. However, the developer undertakes to make the intellectual property in question or his rights to the intellectual property of others available to the respective specialist groups and the **eCH** association free of charge, where possible, for unrestricted use and further development within the framework of the association's purposes.

The standards drawn up by the specialist groups may be used, disseminated and further developed by **eCH** free of charge and without restriction, provided the respective authors are named.

eCH standards are fully documented and free of restrictions under licensing and/or patent law. The respective documentation can be obtained free of charge.

These provisions apply exclusively to the standards drawn up by **eCH**, but not to standards or products of third parties to which reference is made in the **eCH** standards. The standards contain the respective references to the rights of third parties.



Appendix A - Referenzen & Bibliographie

[VOCAB-DCAT] Data Catalog Vocabulary (DCAT). Fadi Maali; John Erickson.

W3C. 4 February 2020. W3C Recommendation

[DCTERMS] DCMI Metadata Terms. DCMI Usage Board. DCMI. 20 January

2020. DCMI Recommendation

[DCAT-AP]

DCAT Application Profile for data portals in Europe. Version

2.0.1. European Commission. 8 June 2020

[FOAF] FOAF Vocabulary Specification 0.99 (Paddington Edition). Dan

Brickley; Libby Miller. FOAF project. 14 January 2014

[schema-org] <u>Schema.org. W3C Schema.org Community Group. W3C. 6.0</u>

[RDF-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR] RDF 1.1 XML Syntax. Fabien Gandon; Guus Schreiber. W3C. 25

February 2014. W3C Recommendation

[RDF-SCHEMA] RDF Schema 1.1. Dan Brickley; Ramanathan Guha. W3C. 25

February 2014. W3C Recommendation

vCard Ontology - for describing People and Organizations.

[VCARD-RDF] Renato lannella; James McKinney. W3C. 22 May 2014. W3C

Working Group Note

W3C XML Schema Definition Language (XSD) 1.1 Part 2:

[XMLSCHEMA11-2] Datatypes. David Peterson; Sandy Gao; Ashok Malhotra; Michael

Sperberg-McQueen; Henry Thompson; Paul V. Biron et al. W3C.

5 April 2012. W3C Recommendation

[VOCAB-ADMS]

Asset Description Metadata Schema (ADMS). Phil Archer;

Gofran Shukair. W3C. 1 August 2013. W3C Working Group Note

SKOS Simple Knowledge Organization System Reference.

[SKOS-REFERENCE] Alistair Miles; Sean Bechhofer. W3C. 18 August 2009. W3C

Recommendation

[LOCN] <u>ISA Programme Location Core Vocabulary</u>

[PROV] <u>PROV-Overview W3C</u>

[SPDX] SPDX 2.2.1. The Linux Foundation

[GeoSPARQL] <u>GeoSPARQL - A Geographic Query Language for RDF Data</u>

Study DCAT-AP CH https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/services/ogd/documentati

on.assetdetail.11147096.html



Appendix B – Collaboration and review

Name	Organisation
Arnaud Raphaëlle	Federal Office of Topography
Amsler Andreas	Statistical Office of Canton of Zurich
Bektas Alperen	Bern University of Applied Sciences
Cochard Jean-Luc	Swiss Federal Archives
Dahinden Gerold	Canton of Schwyz
DiDonato Pasquale	Federal Office of Topography
Eckenfels Jonas	Canton of Basel Stadt
Estermann Beat	Bern University of Applied Sciences
Foletti Ambrogio	Swiss Federal Office of Energy
Gmür Reto	FactsMission
Golliez André	Open Data Consulting
Grüebler Michael	City of Zurich
Haller Stephan	Bern University of Applied Sciences
Hitz Benedikt	Bern University of Applied Sciences
Houmard Jean-Michel	Federal Office of Communications
Hurni Pascal	Federal Statistical Office
Hagmann Jürg	RIM Consulting
Koller Daniela	Canton of Thurgau
Lovato Juan Pablo	Federal Statistical Office
Luggen Michael	Zazuko LLC
Maennel Sabine	Liip Ltd
Mazenauer Matthias	Statistical Office of Canton of Zurich
Merzaghi Michele	Swiss Federal Archives
Oderbolz Stefan	City of Zurich
Roth Maik	Federal Statistical Office
Lo Russo Thomas	Statistical Office of Canton of Zurich



Name	Organisation
Spichtig Michèle	Federal Statistical Office
Zurkinden Max	Federal Statistical Office

Appendix C - Abbreviations and Glossary

CSV Comma-separated values (file format)

DCAT Data Catalog Vocabulary

DCAT AP DCAT- Application Profile for European Data Portals

DCAT-AP CH DCAT- Application Profile for Data Portals in Switzerland

thesaurus developed, published and used by the European Union to

index documents of the European institutions

FTP File Transfer Protocol

HTTP Hypertext Transfer Protocol

IANA Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

ISO International Standards Organization

MIME Type

Internet Media Type resp. Content Type (MIME stands for "Multipurpose")

Internet Mail Extensions")

N-Triples plain text serialisation format for RDF graphs (subset of Turtle)

Notation 3; formal, non-XML-based language that can be used as syntax

for RDF data

Turtle terse RDF triple language; plain text serialisation format for RDF graphs

(subset of Notation 3)

OGD Open Government Data

RDF Resource Description Framework

RDF/XML XML serialisation of RDF

TERMDAT the terminology database of the Federal Administration of Switzerland

URL Uniform Resource Locator

Web-based Distributed Authoring and Versioning; open standard for

making files available on the internet

XML Extended Markup Language; markup language for the representation of

hierarchically structured data in the form of text files



List of referenced namespaces

dcat http://www.w3.org/ns/dcat# [VOCAB-DCAT]

dct http://purl.org/dc/terms/ [DCTERMS]

foaf http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/ [FOAF]

schema http://schema.org/ [schema-org]

rdf http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns# [RDF-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR]

rdfs http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema# [RDF-SCHEMA] vcard http://www.w3.org/2006/vcard/ns# [VCARD-RDF]

xsd http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema# [XMLSCHEMA11-2]

adms http://www.w3.org/ns/adms# [VOCAB-ADMS]

skos http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core# [SKOS-REFERENCE]

locnhttp://www.w3.org/ns/locn#[LOCN]provhttp://www.w3.org/ns/prov#[PROV]spdxhttp://spdx.org/rdf/terms#[SPDX]

gsp http://www.opengis.net/ont/geosparql# [GeoSPARQL]



Multilingual glossary

English	Deutsch	Französisch	Italienisch
DCAT Application Profile	DCAT- Anwendungsprofil	profil d'application DCAT	profilo applicativo di
catalog	Katalog (auch: Datenkatalog)	catalogue (aussi : catalogue de données)	catalogo
dataset	Datensammlung	jeu de données	
distribution	Bereitstellungsform	forme de distribution	distribuzione
metadata record	Metadateneintrag	métadonnées	record di metadati

Appendix D - Changes in comparison to the previous version

Chapter	Page	Change	RFC no.
Summary	2	Adapted to Version 2	
1 Status	5	Set by the expert commission	
1.2 Area of application	5	Written in English, revised: describes reference to DCAT and DCAT-AP	
1.3 Components of the standard	6	NEW: written in English; gives overview of changes from Version 1	
1.3 Components of the standard	-	TRANSFERRED: Chapter was removed. The content has been revised and relocated to Chapter 2 "DCAT-AP CH: Building Blocks".	
1.4	-	OMITTED: The chapter "Modelling structural and thematic relationships between individual data collections" has been removed because the instructions in it are not DCAT-AP compliant. The practice of modulating data series in this way shall still exist, if DCAT-AP-CH: Properties per class are not specified in DCAT-AP CH Version 2, as alternative DCAT-AP-compliant solutions are explicitly desired here.	



Chapter	Page	Change	RFC no.
1.5	-	OMITTED: The Chapter "Form of provision of the catalogue" has been omitted as information is already included elsewhere in the specification (e.g. Chapter 4 specifying that licence is a mandatory field).	
1.6	-	TRANSFERRED: Chapter 1.6 "Compatibility with the European Application Profile" has been omitted as the content is already covered by the new Chapter 4 "Conformance to DCAT-AP".	
2	-	TRANSFERRED: Chapter 2 "Specification of the metadata entry of the class dcat:Catalog" has been removed. All classes are defined in the new Chapter 3 "DCAT-AP-CH: Properties per Class".	
2	6	NEW: The Chapter "DCAT-AP CH: Building Blocks" gives an overview of the classes of DCAT-AP CH, the requirement levels and the handling of multilingualism. The requirement levels were missing in Version 1; multilingualism did not have its own chapter and was explained separately in the properties instead. The class overview replaces the previous Chapter 1.3 "Components of the standard".	
3	-	TRANSFERRED: Chapter 3 "Specification of the metadata entries of the class dcat:Dataset" has been omitted. All classes are defined in the new Chapter 3 "DCAT-AP-CH: Properties per Class".	
3	13	NEW: "DCAT-AP-CH: Properties per Class": the chapter specifies the classes in detail: dcat:Catalog, dcat:Dataset, dcat:Distribution and dcat:DataService are described. The classes were specified as DCAT-AP compliant. All properties that are mandatory or recommended in DCAT-AP Version 2.1.1 are explicitly listed there. Only a selection of the optional properties has been included.	



Chapter	Page	Change	RFC no.
4	-	TRANSFERRED: Chapter 4 "Specification of the metadata entries of the class dcat:Distribution" has been removed. All classes are defined in the new Chapter 3 "DCAT-AP-CH: Properties per Class".	
4	23	NEW: Chapter "Conformance to DCAT-AP" describes what is meant by DCAT-AP as a subprofile of DCAT-AP: what to consider for such a sub-profile to be DCAT-AP compliant.	
5	-	TRANSFERRED: Chapter 5 "Disclaimer/references to third party rights" has been adopted unchanged as Chapter 6.	
5	24	NEW: Chapter "Conformance to DCAT-AP CH" describes the rules that apply to data publishers and data recipients in order to be compliant with DCAT-AP CH.	
6	-	TRANSFERRED: Chapter 6 "Copyright" has been adopted unchanged as Chapter 7.	
6	26	ADOPTED: Chapter 5 "Exclusion of liability/references to third party rights" has been adopted unchanged as Chapter 6.	
7	26	ADOPTED: Chapter 6 "Copyright" has been adopted unchanged as Chapter 7.	
Appendix A	27	Insertion of new references, deletion of existing references as they are no longer current	
Appendix B	28	List of authors and reviewers updated	
Appendix C	29	Abbreviations and glossary largely adopted from Version 1; the namespaces supplemented where necessary	
Appendix E	35	The list of figures has been adapted	

Table 2 Changes from previous version



Appendix E – Table of figures

Figure 1 Overview of DCAT-AP CH classes with their properties and relationship	8
Figure 2 Conformance to DCAT-AP	24