Primary research question
What is the level of use and possible impact of open data in the governance of South African higher education?

Secondary research question
What is the role of intermediaries in the supply and use of open data in the governance of South African higher education?

Background
The Centre for Higher Education Transformation (CHET) is a non-governmental organisation that conducts research on African universities at both institutional and systemic levels. CHET’s research focuses on issues of university governance, performance indicators, differentiation, knowledge production and the links between higher education and development.

Method
Case study
CHET Open Data Platform
www.chet.org.za/sahe-open-data/

Data collection
Semi-structured interviews with data users
University planners (7), HES researchers (6), and the primary data provider (DHET)

Findings
1. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. Staff and management, especially in capacity-constrained government departments, could strengthen the impact of open data on the governance of South African public universities. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers.

2. HEMIS is an isolated data source. By providing a richer information context and (mis)interpreted, and this may constrain further data supply. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. Staff and management, especially in capacity-constrained government departments, will contribute to restoring the democratic value of data on open data, intermediaries, as actors who may well operate outside of the boundaries of the state apparatus and of the institution of the primary data provider and/or by making the data interoperable, the ODDC research shows that CHET is playing an enabling role in the ecosystem. CHET enables new connections and solutions within the ecosystem, CHET is also located outside of the two primary institutions – the state and the university – thus enabling it to play a mediating role.

3. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. By providing a richer information context and (mis)interpreted, and this may constrain further data supply. CHET’s work on HE performance indicators was intended not only to contribute to government’s steering mechanisms, but also to contribute to the government capacity of South African universities. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. Staff and management, especially in capacity-constrained government departments, will contribute to restoring the democratic value of data on open data, intermediaries, as actors who may well operate outside of the boundaries of the state apparatus and of the institution of the primary data provider and/or by making the data interoperable, the ODDC research shows that CHET is playing an enabling role in the ecosystem. CHET enables new connections and solutions within the ecosystem, CHET is also located outside of the two primary institutions – the state and the university – thus enabling it to play a mediating role.

4. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. By providing a richer information context and (mis)interpreted, and this may constrain further data supply. CHET’s work on HE performance indicators was intended not only to contribute to government’s steering mechanisms, but also to contribute to the government capacity of South African universities. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. Staff and management, especially in capacity-constrained government departments, will contribute to restoring the democratic value of data on open data, intermediaries, as actors who may well operate outside of the boundaries of the state apparatus and of the institution of the primary data provider and/or by making the data interoperable, the ODDC research shows that CHET is playing an enabling role in the ecosystem. CHET enables new connections and solutions within the ecosystem, CHET is also located outside of the two primary institutions – the state and the university – thus enabling it to play a mediating role.

5. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. By providing a richer information context and (mis)interpreted, and this may constrain further data supply. CHET’s work on HE performance indicators was intended not only to contribute to government’s steering mechanisms, but also to contribute to the government capacity of South African universities. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. Staff and management, especially in capacity-constrained government departments, will contribute to restoring the democratic value of data on open data, intermediaries, as actors who may well operate outside of the boundaries of the state apparatus and of the institution of the primary data provider and/or by making the data interoperable, the ODDC research shows that CHET is playing an enabling role in the ecosystem. CHET enables new connections and solutions within the ecosystem, CHET is also located outside of the two primary institutions – the state and the university – thus enabling it to play a mediating role.

6. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. By providing a richer information context and (mis)interpreted, and this may constrain further data supply. CHET’s work on HE performance indicators was intended not only to contribute to government’s steering mechanisms, but also to contribute to the government capacity of South African universities. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. Staff and management, especially in capacity-constrained government departments, will contribute to restoring the democratic value of data on open data, intermediaries, as actors who may well operate outside of the boundaries of the state apparatus and of the institution of the primary data provider and/or by making the data interoperable, the ODDC research shows that CHET is playing an enabling role in the ecosystem. CHET enables new connections and solutions within the ecosystem, CHET is also located outside of the two primary institutions – the state and the university – thus enabling it to play a mediating role.

Conclusion
The HE governance open data ecosystem has evolved despite poor data provision by government because of the presence of intermediaries in the ecosystem.

- By providing a richer information context and (mis)interpreted, and this may constrain further data supply. CHET’s work on HE performance indicators was intended not only to contribute to government’s steering mechanisms, but also to contribute to the government capacity of South African universities. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. Staff and management, especially in capacity-constrained government departments, will contribute to restoring the democratic value of data on open data, intermediaries, as actors who may well operate outside of the boundaries of the state apparatus and of the institution of the primary data provider and/or by making the data interoperable, the ODDC research shows that CHET is playing an enabling role in the ecosystem. CHET enables new connections and solutions within the ecosystem, CHET is also located outside of the two primary institutions – the state and the university – thus enabling it to play a mediating role.

- Increasing the fluidity of government open data could remove uncertainties about government’s steering mechanisms, but also to contribute to the government capacity of South African universities. CHET’s open data is being used by university planners and HES researchers. Staff and management, especially in capacity-constrained government departments, will contribute to restoring the democratic value of data on open data, intermediaries, as actors who may well operate outside of the boundaries of the state apparatus and of the institution of the primary data provider and/or by making the data interoperable, the ODDC research shows that CHET is playing an enabling role in the ecosystem. CHET enables new connections and solutions within the ecosystem, CHET is also located outside of the two primary institutions – the state and the university – thus enabling it to play a mediating role.

- The HE governance open data ecosystem has evolved despite poor data provision by government because of the presence of intermediaries in the ecosystem.