

As citizens demand accountability, governments keep data locked away

The Web Foundation believes that open data must be:



*for everyone —
a right for all*



*the data
people **need***



*data people can
easily use*

In this edition of the Barometer, 1,725 datasets from 15 different sectors across 115 countries were assessed. We found that most governments are not meeting the basic [Open Data Charter principles](#). In most cases, the right policies are not in place, nor is the breadth and quality of the datasets released sufficient.

What is Open Data and why is it important?

Open data is data which is freely available and shareable online, without charge or any other restrictions. Without good data, it is impossible to hold governments to account for the decisions that they make, the policies they pass, and the money they budget and spend.



Almost half of countries in the region have made significant strides towards open data implementation.



Only one country in the region ranks in the Barometer Top 25.



This is a region on the rise. The three countries with the biggest improvement in this year's Barometer all come from the region.

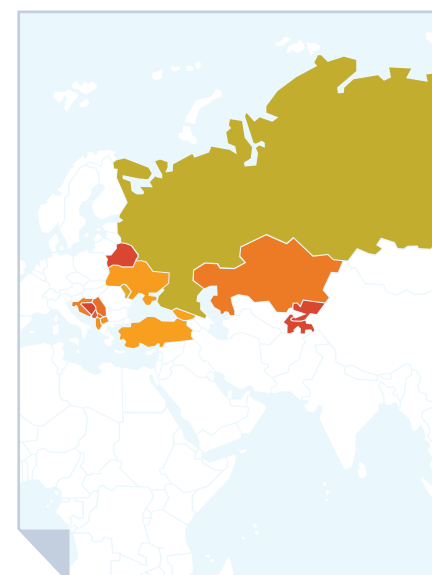


General regional highlights and findings

This regional snapshot covers 18 countries in the Western Balkans, South Caucasus, Western Commonwealth of Independent States and Central Asia.

As a whole, the region has progressed significantly. The top five ranked countries — Russia, Moldova, Georgia, Bulgaria and Turkey — have all seen marked improvements in their Barometer scores in recent years. Yet, many countries in the region still prioritise e-government and open government initiatives, but are not yet unlocking benefits from broader open data initiatives.

Georgia (+20), Ukraine (+18) and Russia (+16) have made the biggest leaps in this edition's ranking, with Ukraine being the first country in the region to adopt the Open Data Charter. Meanwhile Poland — dropping 14 places — and Macedonia — down 15 — show worrying backsliding.



Open Data Barometer 4th Edition Regional Ranking

Global Rank	Score	Country	Global Rank	Score	Country
25	49	Russia	59	26	Kazakhstan
31	44	Moldova	63	24	Kosovo *
40	37	Georgia	65	23	Serbia
40	37	Turkey	83	15	Montenegro
44	36	Ukraine	87	13	Kyrgyzstan
48	33	Macedonia	93	11	Belarus
50	32	Albania	97	10	Tajikistan
58	27	Croatia	100	8	Bosnia and Herzegovina

* For ODECA, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

Produced by:

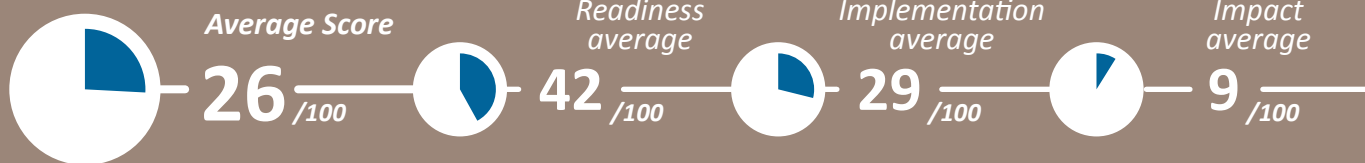


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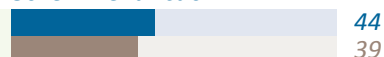
Readiness for open data initiatives

Government Policies



Some countries have strong transparency and anti-corruption initiatives, such as Turkey's [Networks of Dispossession](#), which maps relationships of capital and power.

Government Action



Citizens and Civil Rights



Even regional champions such as Georgia, Bulgaria and Turkey score low on data management, support for innovation, civil society engagement and open data activity at the subnational level.

Entrepreneurs and Business



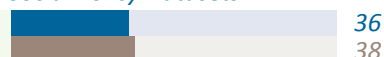
Implementation of open data programmes

Innovation Datasets

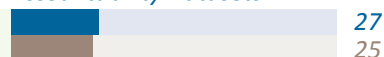


Interestingly, of the 115 countries included in the Barometer, three out of the nine countries with fully open crime data, and three out of the seven countries with fully open environmental data are found in the region.

Social Policy Datasets



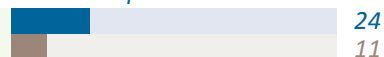
Accountability Datasets



Only 4% of the data we analysed in the region was fully open. The regional champions still score low on openness of datasets - particularly on those necessary to foster government accountability.

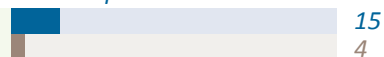
Impact that open data is having

Political Impact



Some countries are improving on political and economic impact, including Russia and Ukraine. Moldova has also a well-established public procurement [open contracting portal](#).

Social Impact



Economic Impact



The impact on inclusion remains zero for more than half of the countries assessed, and remains very low for the rest. In some countries, including Moldova, impact on accountability and entrepreneurship has decreased in the edition.

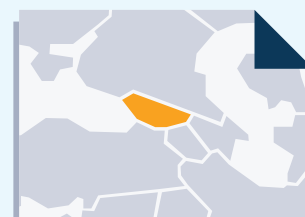
Global average scores



Regional average scores



Ukraine is well positioned to be an open data leader in the region. It has made significant improvements and jumped 18 places in the rankings. It has adopted the [Open Data Charter](#) and the [Open Contracting Data Standard](#), showing a strong policy commitment to open data. The country has strengthened its national open government data initiative, improved its open data policy and strategy, and has now better data management practices. Availability of data has improved overall, in particular for education, spending, company, and contracting datasets. However, Ukraine needs open licenses to have truly open datasets in all sectors.



Georgia has made significant strides, jumping 20 places to become a top five regional champion. It has fully open education, crime, environment, and budget data, and has robust data protection and detailed Right to Information and Freedom of Information laws. The government has also increased support for open data innovation and training. The impact of open data on accountability and transparency has also increased, with stand-out projects like [Tender Monitor Georgia](#), which uses data about government contracts to monitor tenders, gather information about suppliers and customers and analyse corruption risks.