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.

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.

* For ODECA, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)
Some countries have strong transparency and anti-corruption initiatives, such as Turkey’s Networks of Dispossession, which maps relationships of capital and power.

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.

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 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.

This fourth edition of the Barometer was supported by grants from the Omidyar Network and the Open Data for Development (OD4D) programme, a partnership funded by Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the World Bank, United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), and Global Affairs Canada (GAC). The OD4D programme supported the report with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, Canada.