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IDRC Grant/ Subvention du CRDI: 108347-001-Measuring the supply, use, and impact of open data
Fourth Edition

The Web Foundation believes that open data must be:

- **for everyone — a right for all**
- **the data people need**
- **data people can easily use**

As citizens demand accountability, governments keep data locked away. The Web Foundation believes that open data must be:

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.

As 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.

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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.

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