

2025 Open Data Best Practices in Europe

A summary of key strategies for
advancing open data maturity



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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The open data maturity (ODM) assessment is an annual benchmarking and peer-learning exercise that evaluates countries’ maturity in the field of open data.

The assessment methodology defines ODM using four thematic dimensions:

- **policy** investigates open data policies and strategies including the national governance models for managing open data;
- **portal** investigates the functionality of national open data portals including how users’ needs are addressed and the availability of open data across different domains;
- **quality** assesses the measures taken to ensure that metadata is of high-quality quality and complies with the data catalogue vocabulary application profile for data portals in Europe (DCAT-AP) metadata standard; and
- **impact** analyses the ability of countries to measure the reuse of open data and the impact created through this reuse.

Each of the four dimensions is further divided into indicators that capture subthemes relevant to the open data landscape.

Data is collected through a survey completed by national representatives. The survey is scored based on a predefined system. **Figure 1** presents an overview of the methodological framework.

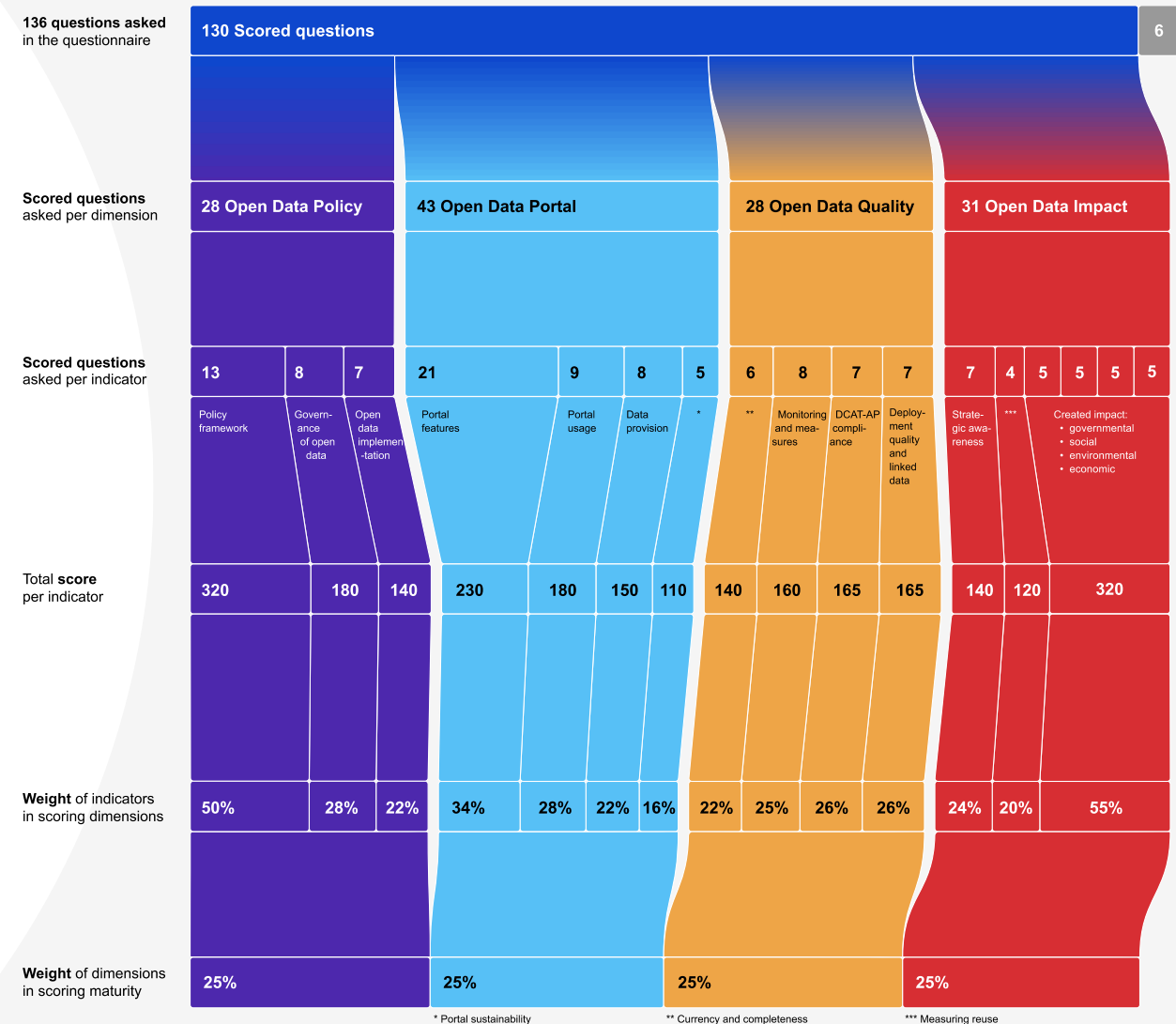


Figure 1: Overview of the ODM methodology and scoring system

PURPOSE OF THE BEST PRACTICES

The best practices provide a collection of approaches that drive maturity in the four dimensions of the ODM assessment. They present concrete examples of activities and initiatives reported by countries, the objective of which is to support knowledge sharing and provide practical guidance and inspiration for other countries seeking to strengthen their open data strategies and implementation.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

Descriptions of best practices were collected through the 2024 and 2025 surveys of the ODM assessment. In addition to providing explanations when answering questions in the survey, respondents were invited to reply to optional questions inquiring about their selected best practices per ODM dimension. These practices were then analysed for cross-cutting trends. The trends, along with concrete examples illustrating each trend, are presented in this report.

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POLICY DIMENSION

OVERVIEW OF THE DIMENSION

The policy dimension of the ODM assessment is designed to encourage the practical implementation of policy measures. Governance structures, operating models, processes and activities are needed to realise the ambitions outlined in policies and strategies.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

INDICATOR	KEY ELEMENTS
Policy framework	This indicator assesses whether national and subnational open data policies and strategies exist and how comprehensive they are. It looks at the presence of action plans, measures to incentivise publication and reuse, and support for real-time, geospatial and citizen-generated data. It also considers discoverability on the European Data Portal, data inventories and progress on high-value datasets (HVDs).
Governance of open data	This indicator explores how governance structures enable coordination and stakeholder inclusion. It considers the existence of governance models, official roles and public documentation of responsibilities. It also looks at support for local and regional initiatives and regular exchanges between providers, reusers and open data officers.
Open data implementation	This indicator evaluates how policies and strategies are put into practice. It looks at data publication plans, monitoring and revision processes and measures to address implementation challenges. It also considers support for data holders, training for civil servants and activities promoting open data literacy across society.

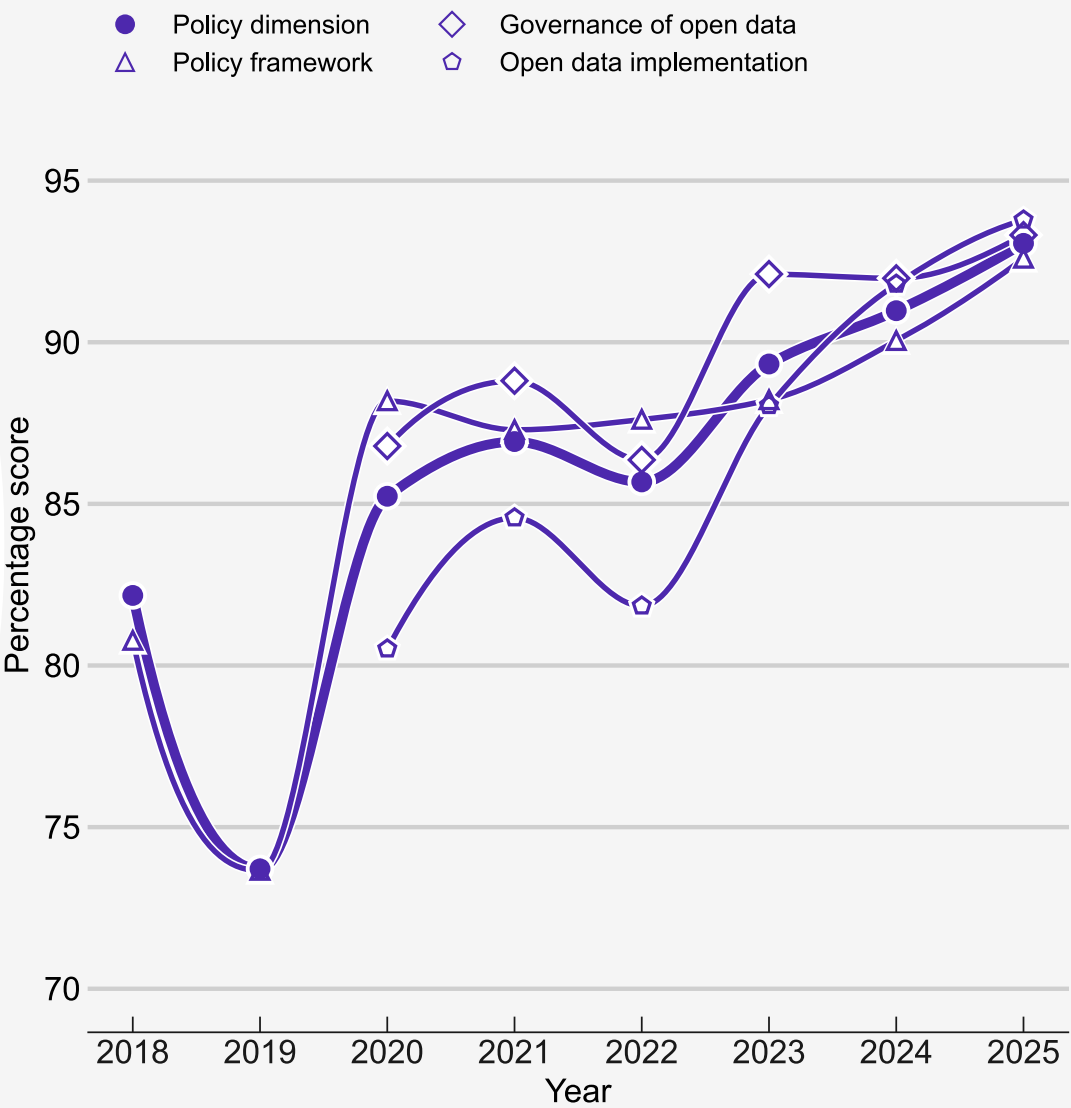


Figure 2: Policy maturity score over time. EU-27, 2018–2025.

Establish a dedicated, multi-stakeholder group for governing national open data affairs

Countries could strengthen their open data governance by creating a formal, recurring coordination forum that brings together representatives from the public sector, private sector, academia and civil society. Such a platform can enable ministries, regional authorities and major data providers to regularly exchange information, resolve implementation challenges and align on shared priorities. Furthermore, by involving actors from government, research, business and civil society, these forums can foster collaboration, ensure the consistent interpretation of open data obligations and support the continuous improvement of national open data policies and strategies.



Austria

Austria's multi-stakeholder cooperation forum serves as a cornerstone of the country's open data governance strategy. Since the inception of open data activities, Austria has fostered a collaborative platform that brings together representatives from all levels of government, particularly within its federated system, alongside stakeholders from research, the private sector and civil society. This inclusive approach has enabled regular collaboration, experience sharing and joint problem-solving, ensuring that open data policies and practices are continuously improved.



Czechia

Czechia's Working Group for Open Data, operating under the Government Council, brings together key members from central authorities and regional governments, with representatives nominated from the largest open data providers. This structure ensures regular meetings that facilitate the exchange of information on open data obligations and the monitoring of their fulfillment.



Lithuania

Lithuania's Open Data Club, launched in September 2022 by the Ministry of Economy and Innovation in collaboration with the Information Society Development Committee and the State Data Agency, serves as a dedicated forum for coordinating national open data efforts. This initiative brings together data opening coordinators from all ministries for periodic meetings, where they can share experiences, discuss challenges in making government data more accessible and engage with key stakeholders. The Open Data Club facilitates collaboration between public sector entities, ensuring a unified approach to data governance while fostering transparency, innovation and the exchange of best practices across ministries and their subordinate institutions.

Establish an online community platform to enable dialogue and knowledge sharing

Countries can strengthen their open data ecosystems by establishing dedicated online platforms that enable interaction between data providers and data users. These digital communities offer structured spaces for discussion, questions and answers, and knowledge sharing, while also hosting activities such as events, demonstrations and collaborative problem-solving. By providing an accessible and actively moderated environment, such platforms can help clarify data needs, surface common challenges and cultivate stronger relationships across public, private and civil-society stakeholders. Ultimately, they can foster a more transparent, responsive and innovation-driven open data landscape.



Norway

Norway's Datalandsbyen is an online forum that serves as a collaborative space for individuals interested in data sharing and information management. Launched in June 2021 by the Norwegian Digitalisation Agency (Digdir) in collaboration with Datafabrikken and the Norwegian Public Roads Administration, it aims to promote open, data-driven innovation through cooperation, dialogue and knowledge sharing. Users can ask questions about data, participate in discussions, share projects and establish connections. The forum is open to everyone, but registration is required to post content. By providing this platform, Datalandsbyen fosters a community where data consumers and providers can inspire each other, share useful tips, discuss the use of data and application programming interfaces (APIs) and request access to desired datasets, thereby enhancing data utilisation and innovation across various sectors.



Italy

Italy's Forum Italia serves as a dynamic digital hub that fosters continuous interaction between public sector entities and open data reusers, including academia, citizens and businesses. This platform offers a dedicated space for discussions on various topics, such as data and open data, where stakeholders can share insights, address challenges and collaborate on data-driven initiatives. By facilitating open dialogue and knowledge exchange, Forum Italia enhances the accessibility and usability of public data, promoting transparency and innovation across Italy's digital landscape.



Netherlands

The Netherlands' [Geoforum platform](#) exemplifies a collaborative online community where geospatial data providers and users can engage in continuous dialogue. Structured into categories such as 'datasets', 'applications', 'standards', 'organisations', 'events' and 'miscellaneous', Geoforum facilitates discussions on various topics, enabling users to seek assistance, share knowledge and discuss the use of open datasets, application development and geo-standards. This interactive environment fosters collaboration, enhances data accessibility and promotes the effective use of geospatial information across multiple sectors.

Introduce dedicated programmes that provide technical guidance and funding for local and regional open data initiatives

Countries can accelerate the adoption and impact of open data by establishing structured support programmes that offer both expert advisory assistance and targeted financial resources to local and regional authorities. Such programmes can help public bodies comply with open data standards, improve data quality and develop sustainable practices by providing hands-on technical guidance, methodological support and access to relevant training materials. Financial instruments, such as grants, project funding or infrastructure support, further enable local and regional administrations to design, implement and scale open data projects in line with national strategies. By combining advisory services with monetary support, these programmes can strengthen capacity across government levels and promote the more consistent implementation of open data policies.



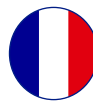
Spain

Spain's Aporta initiative, operated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Territorial Policy and Civil Service, promotes collaboration among public institutions, private enterprises and citizens, thereby enhancing transparency and innovation nationwide. Aporta provides public sector bodies and entities with a specialised support and advisory service on the technical and methodological aspects of open data and the reuse of public sector information, helping them comply with open data regulations. This service is designed to assist these bodies by complementing the information available through various manuals, guides, reports and training materials.



Estonia

Estonia's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications fosters local and regional open data initiatives through a combination of technical guidance, financial support and infrastructure development during the preparation and implementation of their open data initiatives. Additionally, if there is a need to disseminate information about these initiatives, the ministry leverages its network to share the information widely, thereby enhancing visibility and collaboration across different levels of government. The Inter-departmental Open Data Working Group, which includes members from multiple public sector organisations and ministries, regularly meets to exchange experiences and discuss open data developments.



France

France's Public Action Transformation Fund is a national initiative designed to bolster local and regional open data projects. This fund provides financial support and strategic guidance to local and regional administrations, enabling them to foster innovation and improve public services through data-driven approaches. Managed by Etalab, a mission under the authority of the French Prime Minister, the fund aligns with France's commitment to open government principles and the proactive sharing of public data.

Country quotes



Austria

‘We encourage other countries to establish a cooperation forum that includes public sector representatives of all levels of government (in particular within a federated system) as well as representatives of research, the economy and the civil society. This has been our success story since the beginning of open data activities in Austria. In this case, all representatives are regarded as equals, thus the willingness and participation is kept at a steady level. A speaker of the cooperation is chosen regularly by the members of the cooperative. However, apart from this principle of voluntary participation, a leading role of one of the ministries, and an according strategy, is recommended for better top-down adherence to implementing open data policies and monitoring its progress.

Furthermore, we recommend implementing the concept of “data excellence” throughout organisations (metadata, roles and responsibilities, evaluation).’



Denmark

‘We suggest that you should find a good division of responsibilities and labour with data providers and create forums for knowledge sharing and collaboration. Start by working with the most important data providers. Make a prioritised (but flexible) list that can be adjusted based on political decisions and changes on the providers’ side. Aim for flexible governance (both legal and financial), so efforts can be focused on what creates the most value for users.

Keep track of, and try to advise on, public sector reforms and investments that involve data, even when they are not explicitly labelled as digital or data-related, since the biggest data investments often happen outside programmes that are explicitly labelled as having to do with data.’

PORTAL DIMENSION

OVERVIEW OF THE DIMENSION

The portal dimension of the ODM assessment is designed to encourage national portals to offer features and functionalities that meet user needs and deliver a positive user experience. A well-designed, user-friendly portal can boost the adoption of open data and help transform casual users into active reusers.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

INDICATOR	KEY ELEMENTS
Portal features	This indicator explores how national portals empower users through interactive features and technical capabilities. It assesses whether portals support programmatic access via APIs or SPARQL, offer relevant documentation and enable dataset previews. It also considers user engagement tools such as feedback mechanisms, dataset requests, reuse case submissions and notifications. The presence of community features, transparency around data requests and promotion of HVDs are also taken into account.
Portal usage	This indicator assesses how well national portals monitor user activity and apply insights to improve usability. It looks at traffic analysis, API usage and efforts to understand user needs. It also considers whether search behaviour is tracked and whether steps are taken to enhance discoverability and metadata clarity.
Data provision	This indicator assesses how well national portals support inclusive data publication. It looks at contributions from public sector providers and whether support is offered to organisations not yet publishing data. It also considers the integration of local and regional data, the use of automatic harvesting and the availability of real-time and citizen-generated datasets. Lastly, it checks whether the portal shows when data exists but cannot be shared.
Portal sustainability	To ensure long-term viability, this indicator looks at whether clear sustainability strategies are in place for national portals. It considers the availability of public documentation and open-source code and looks at social media presence. It also assesses whether portals monitor the characteristics of published data and use these insights to improve performance. The focus is on transparency, adaptability and the ability to maintain and develop the portal over time.

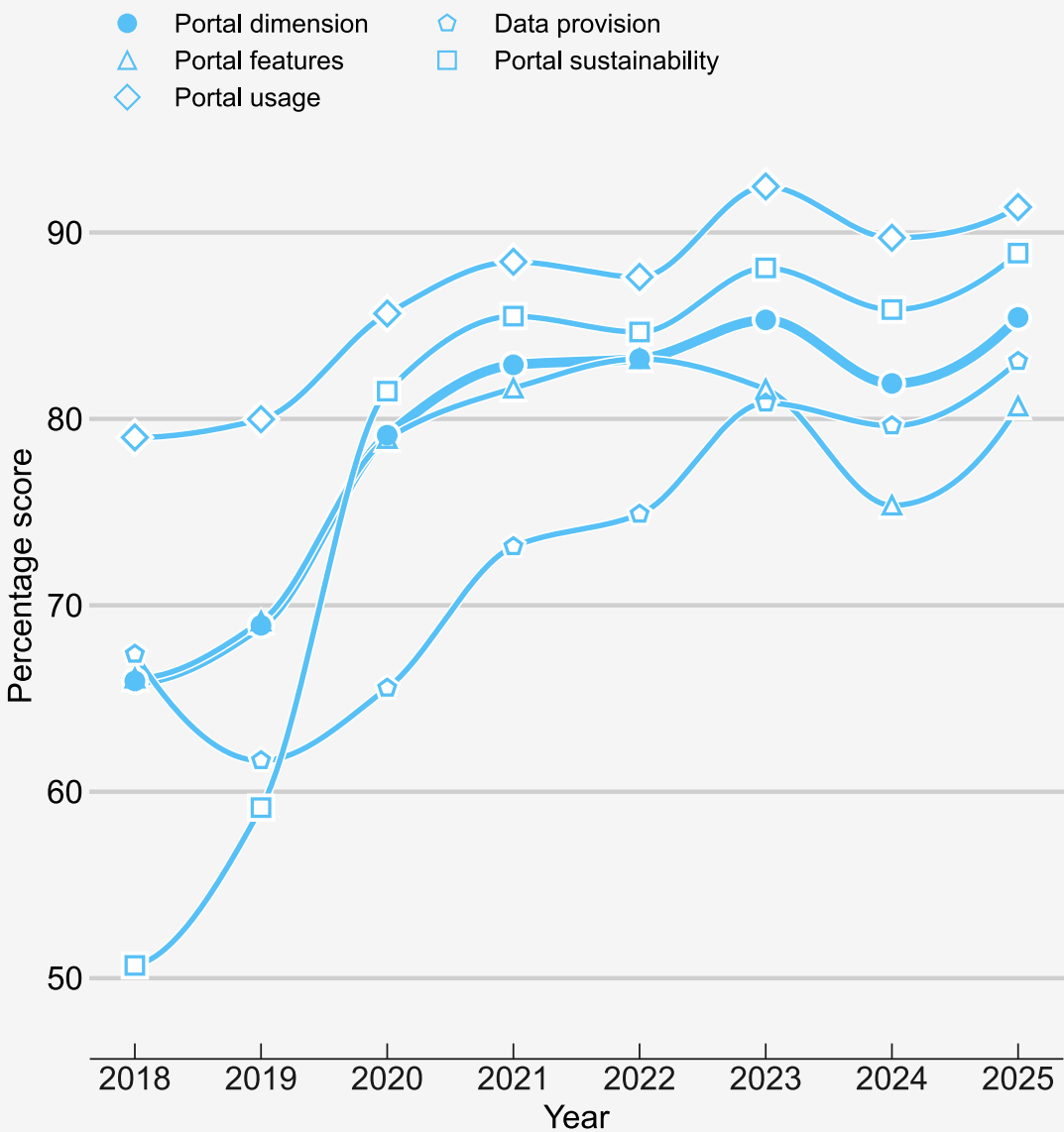


Figure 3: Portal maturity score over time. EU-27, 2018–2025.

Design a comprehensive national portal that provides a one-stop shop for users

A national open data portal should operate as a user-centred, integrated gateway that enables the public to easily discover, understand and reuse government data. By centralising key functionalities such as dataset requests, advanced search and showcases of practical applications, portals can create an interactive environment that supports both data providers and users. A well-designed portal not only lowers barriers to accessing open data but also maximises its societal value by guiding users, understanding user demand and fostering a vibrant community of practice.



Spain

Spain has implemented a structured and transparent process for requesting datasets on its national open data portal. This approach aims to make data supply more user-driven and accessible by allowing citizens to actively request datasets that are not yet available. The request process is clearly visualised, guiding users through each step. Requests are publicly documented, enabling other users to join existing requests and demonstrate demand. Responses are provided in a structured format, ensuring clarity and consistency. This open and collaborative system enhances engagement, encourages data availability and strengthens trust in public data services.



Portugal

Portugal has introduced a discussion section on its national open data portal, allowing users to comment directly under each dataset. This feature was implemented to enhance collaboration and improve data quality by enabling direct exchanges between users and data providers. The discussion section is integrated into each dataset page, providing a structured space for users to ask questions, share insights and highlight potential issues. This interactive approach fosters transparency and ensures that public data is continuously refined through community engagement.



Serbia

Serbia's national open data portal features a dedicated section showcasing practical examples of how open data is utilised. This initiative aims to inspire and guide users by demonstrating real-world applications of open data, thereby promoting its reuse and highlighting its societal and economic benefits. The portal curates a variety of use cases, including applications, visualisations and analyses, each linked to the specific datasets employed. By providing these concrete examples, Serbia encourages innovative uses of open data, fostering a culture of transparency and collaboration within the community.

Ensure the relevancy of national portals by adapting features based on user analytics and structured user engagement

To ensure that national open data portals remain relevant and effective, countries increasingly rely on a combination of usage analytics and systematic user engagement. Detailed monitoring of how users access, explore and reuse datasets enables data providers to identify emerging trends, adjust content and prioritise improvements based on real user behaviour. Complementing this, structured mechanisms such as surveys, interviews and community forums capture diverse feedback and offer deeper insights into user expectations and challenges. By integrating data-driven insights with direct stakeholder input, national portals can refine their features and services in a user-centred manner.



Lithuania

Lithuania ensures that updates and new features on its national open data portal are relevant to users by actively monitoring detailed usage statistics. The portal provides comprehensive analytics on dataset views, downloads and user interactions, offering insights into user engagement and interests. Data providers can access these statistics to understand which datasets are most accessed and how users interact with them. This data-driven approach enables the continuous refinement of the portal's content and functionality, aligning it closely with user needs and preferences.



Estonia

Estonia ensures that updates to its national open data portal remain relevant by actively gathering user feedback through surveys, interviews and impact assessments. This approach helps identify user needs and challenges, ensuring that improvements align with real demands. Surveys focus on specific aspects, such as preferred data visualisation solutions, while interviews provide deeper insights into user experiences and obstacles. Additionally, an annual open data impact assessment evaluates attitudes and practices within organisations. By continuously engaging with users and stakeholders, Estonia maintains a user-driven portal that evolves based on actual needs, maximising its usefulness and impact.



Sweden

Sweden ensures that its national open data portal remains relevant by actively engaging with users through multiple channels. A dedicated community forum provides insights into data needs and facilitates discussions on portal improvements, while an open GitHub repository allows users to suggest enhancements directly. Regular dialogues, including seminars with civil-society organisations, help capture diverse perspectives. Additionally, Sweden conducted a large-scale needs assessment with data providers, based on interviews, resulting in a comprehensive list of identified user needs. Insights from past usability tests continue to inform improvements, ensuring that the portal evolves in line with real-world requirements.

Streamline open data publication through centralised support for data providers and automated harvesting

To ensure that national open data portals remain comprehensive and up-to-date, countries are increasingly adopting a mix of support mechanisms and technical automation for data providers. Centralised access to knowledge resources and practical guidelines support data providers in publishing high-quality datasets. Alongside this, automated harvesting from local and regional portals expands the national catalogue while minimising manual effort. Furthermore, enabling real-time data integration through APIs ensures that dynamic datasets are continuously refreshed and easy for users to identify and access. By combining provider support, automated data collection and modern publication tools, national portals can maintain robust, efficient and scalable open data ecosystems.



Germany

Germany's Competence Centre for Open Data supports data providers in publishing open data through a comprehensive knowledge library and targeted workshops. The knowledge library consolidates various guidelines, manuals and resources from all federal levels, offering accessible support materials for data providers. Additionally, the centre conducts workshops addressing specific challenges in open data publication, facilitating direct engagement and skills development. These initiatives streamline the publication process, enhance data quality and promote a standardised approach to open data across Germany.



Spain

Spain has streamlined the integration of local and regional datasets into its national open data portal through automated data harvesting. This approach ensures that a significant share of the datasets available nationally are continuously updated without manual intervention. By enabling local and regional initiatives to federate their data directly into the national catalogue, Spain reduces duplication of efforts and ensures broader data availability. This system is particularly effective in countries with decentralised data infrastructures, where multiple local and regional entities manage their own open data portals. By automating the process, Spain enhances efficiency, maintains data consistency and strengthens the accessibility of public data across different levels of government.



Spain

Spain's national open data portal enhances user access to real-time information by integrating dynamic datasets that are updated as frequently as every minute. Users can filter datasets based on update frequency, identifying those with continuous or near-real-time updates. Additionally, the portal highlights datasets accessible via APIs or web services, marked with specific icons for easy identification. To further support data publishers, a practical guide on using APIs for open data publication has been developed, encouraging the release of high-quality, dynamic data. These efforts ensure that users have timely access to the most current information available.

Country quotes



Belgium

‘Actually, the most important feature is the contact form, and the network of people to contact when a user wants to access the data. Most people use Google anyway (or nowadays ChatGPT, Grok) to find datasets.’



Spain

‘From our point of view, there are three fundamental elements that every national open data portal that aggregates metadata from other portals must implement, concentrating the greatest development effort:

- (1) a very functional back office so that publishing users can manage their data resources effectively (harvesting and broken links);
- (2) a mechanism for requesting new unpublished data; and
- (3) a navigation that facilitates the discovery of training and information materials both collectively and by sector (health, education, environment, etc.).’



Denmark

‘It is important that the division of responsibilities agreed in the governance set-up is supported by technical measures that make it possible. Providers do their part on their own platforms; we handle what is needed at the central level.

We automate and standardise as much as possible (e.g. for onboarding processes and metadata handling). For example, metadata can be harvested via APIs.

Furthermore, we focus on the core functionalities: storing and displaying metadata.

Talk to data users as often as possible to understand their needs.’

QUALITY DIMENSION

OVERVIEW OF THE DIMENSION

The quality dimension of the ODM assessment encourages national portals to publish datasets with high-quality data and metadata. The ODM methodology emphasises metadata quality, since national portals aim to make datasets discoverable and harvest metadata. The methodology also investigates whether portal managers have materials and processes in place to assist and incentivise data publishers to provide high-quality data.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

INDICATOR	KEY ELEMENTS
Metadata currency and completeness	This indicator assesses whether metadata is kept current and complete. It looks at systematic approaches for timely updates, automation of harvesting and minimal delays between source changes and portal updates. It also considers the coverage of historical and contemporary data and measures to ensure the interoperability of HVDs across countries.
Monitoring and measures	This indicator explores how metadata quality and licensing compliance are monitored. It considers whether mechanisms track quality and whether results are published. It also looks at standards for metadata and licences, guidelines for providers and support activities to help them publish high-quality metadata and choose appropriate licences.
DCAT-AP compliance	This indicator evaluates adherence to the DCAT-AP standard. It looks at compliance with mandatory, recommended and optional classes and whether guidelines and tools assist providers. It also considers the existence of national DCAT-AP extensions, monitoring of compliance and efforts to address common gaps.
Deployment quality and linked data	This indicator assesses the quality of data and metadata deployment. It considers whether models such as the five-star open data model or the FAIR principles are used, the share of datasets that meet open and machine-readable standards, and the use of structured licences. It also looks at linking practices, including the use of uniform resource identifiers and connections to other data sources.

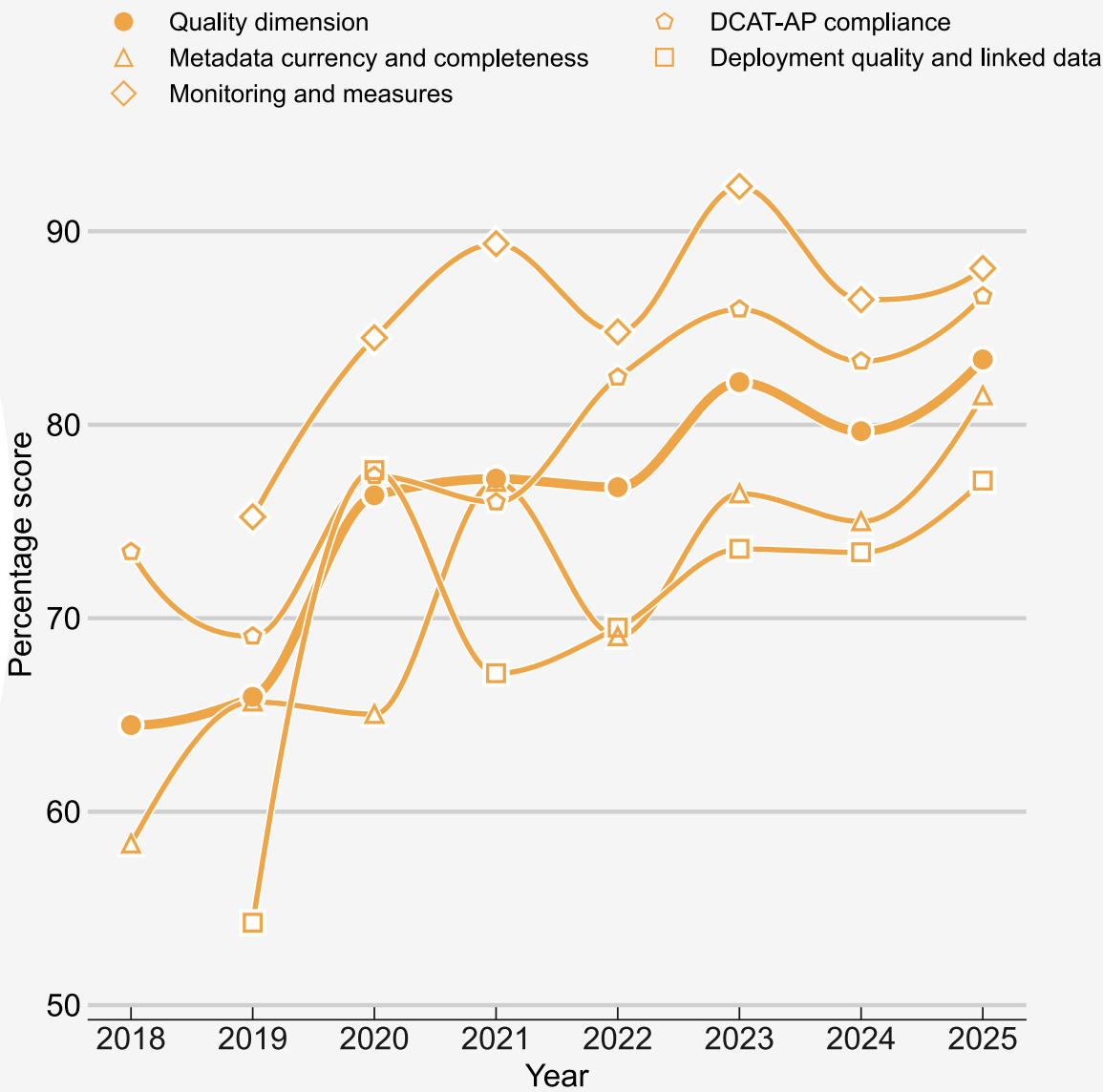


Figure 4: Quality maturity score over time. EU-27, 2018–2025.

Monitor and enhance metadata quality based on standardised assessment frameworks

Ensuring high-quality metadata is essential for the discoverability and usability of open data. Countries can combine use systematic quality assessments and transparent reporting to enable both data providers and users to understand how metadata quality compares against established standards. Leveraging methodologies such as the [metadata quality assessment \(MQA\)](#) can support consistent evaluation across key concepts underpinning what quality metadata means. Regularly generated quality reports, validator outputs and publicly accessible dashboards can help monitor progress, identify gaps and guide improvements.



Hungary

Hungary's metadata quality dashboard employs the MQA methodology to evaluate metadata across multiple dimensions. This assessment focuses on compliance with the DCAT-AP standard, data accessibility and machine readability, and appropriate license usage. The evaluation results are transparently displayed on the national data portal's dashboard, offering stakeholders clear insights into metadata quality and supporting continuous enhancements in data management practices.



Sweden

Sweden's metadata quality dashboard, developed by the Swedish Agency for Digital Government, employs the MQA methodology, aligning with standards set by the European Data Portal. By systematically analysing these aspects, the dashboard provides data providers with valuable insights and improvement suggestions to enhance metadata quality.



Czechia

Czechia's metadata quality dashboard displays comprehensive metadata quality metrics, enabling users to assess and understand data quality at a glance. For a more in-depth analysis, users can download CSV files containing detailed metadata information, facilitating further examination and reporting. Additionally, the dashboard supports access through an interactive SPARQL end point, allowing users to query metadata directly for customised data retrieval. These features collectively ensure that metadata is not only available but also presented in a user-friendly manner, promoting transparency and trust in the data provided.

Enforce mandatory metadata requirements and pre-publication quality checks to ensure consistent, high-quality open data

Several countries oblige data providers to populate a minimum set of mandatory metadata fields and enforce systematic quality checks of the metadata before a dataset can be published. This approach can help maintain a reliable baseline of metadata quality across published datasets. It supports datasets published on national open data portals being consistently documented, interoperable and easy for users to understand and reuse. This approach can also strengthen standardisation efforts, such as the implementation of DCAT-AP. Automated validations, clear quality indicators, and compliance also support in the safeguarding of metadata quality and promote a well-functioning open data ecosystem.



Cyprus

Cyprus's national open data portal has implemented mandatory metadata fields, which public sector bodies must complete before publishing data on the portal. Without completing these mandatory fields, datasets cannot be published, ensuring that only properly documented data is made publicly available. Once the metadata is submitted, the open data team conducts a quality review to assess format compliance and metadata completeness, ensuring that each dataset meets the necessary standards before publication.



Czechia

Czechia's national open data portal exclusively harvests datasets that comply with the DCAT-AP-CZ standard, which ensures both interoperability between datasets and adherence to the required minimum metadata quality. This standard includes certain mandatory properties but also offers flexibility, allowing data providers to include additional metadata fields relevant to their needs. This approach not only guarantees that datasets meet the national metadata quality standards but also facilitates seamless integration with the European Data Portal and supports reporting to the European Commission.



Spain

On Spain's national open data portal, datasets that fail to meet established quality standards are not allowed to be published. The country's open data platform uses an automatic federation mechanism or manual upload process to generate reports that notify dataset publishers when quality standards are not met. These reports prompt necessary adjustments to metadata before datasets can be published. The dataset catalogue does not save any changes until the metadata has been corrected and meets the quality requirements, ensuring that only high-quality, compliant data is available for public use.

Provide tailored, one-on-one support to data providers

Offering individualised assistance to data publishers can be an effective way to raise the quality of both data and metadata across a national open data ecosystem. By engaging directly with data owners, support teams can identify specific issues, clarify standards and provide tailored guidance that reflects the unique needs, challenges and capacities of each organisation. This hands-on approach can help accelerate problem resolution, build confidence among data providers and foster a collaborative environment that supports continuous improvement. Through personalised feedback loops, targeted consultations and direct mentoring, countries can ensure that metadata quality is enhanced.



Italy

Italy takes a proactive approach by regularly reaching out to data providers to improve metadata quality. This includes providing personalised error logs that highlight specific issues and offering direct contact when errors or quality concerns are detected. This type of hands-on communication helps ensure that data providers understand the issues and take corrective actions, fostering continuous improvement in metadata quality.



Luxembourg

Luxembourg has established a robust three-tier support system for data owners, which includes personalised one-on-one assistance for quality control. This support structure is complemented by automated checks on data availability, ensuring that issues are detected and addressed quickly. Data owners benefit from both manual guidance and automated tools that help maintain high-quality data standards across various datasets.



Croatia

In Croatia, the focus is on direct engagement with data providers to ensure alignment with quality standards. The government has conducted multiple meetings with data providers to discuss metadata quality and the standards applied during the data upload process. This collaborative approach is ongoing, with plans to hold more meetings to further improve metadata quality and ensure that data publishers adhere to best practices.

Country quotes



Czechia

‘Our catalogue is DCAT-AP compliant, and we only accept DCAT-AP compliant metadata when harvesting. We have come to an understanding that once non-compliant metadata makes it into the portal, there is no way to convince the publisher to correct their metadata.’



Belgium

‘Help providers converting (other) metadata to DCAT-AP. It helps tremendously. If we didn't do the conversion ourselves, our portal would practically be empty.’



Denmark

‘A good practice for us is using DCAT-AP as the foundation for everything we do. For example, conducting user testing to understand which knowledge needs are most important to users, and use DCAT-AP to help answer those questions.’

Also, we do everything to avoid outdated metadata and broken links: prioritising quality over quantity. We also consider whether it makes sense for some providers to publish all their datasets (if they have a lot).

We don't set the minimum requirements too high – it might result in fewer available datasets being described. Instead, we aim for a minimum viable product (MVP) and support agencies in improving their descriptions over time.’

IMPACT DIMENSION

OVERVIEW OF THE DIMENSION

The impact dimension of the ODM assessment is designed to encourage countries to implement mechanisms for monitoring open data reuse and to better understand and address the needs of data users. Hence, the impact dimension evaluates how well countries define and measure data reuse, the steps taken to assess reuse and user needs, and the presence of reuse examples in the domains of government, society, the environment and the economy.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

INDICATOR	KEY ELEMENTS
Strategic awareness	This indicator assesses whether a national definition of open data reuse exists and how reuse is monitored and encouraged. It looks at processes for tracking reuse at the national, local, and regional levels, including for HVDs. It also considers whether a methodology is in place to measure the impact of open data reuse.
Measuring reuse	This indicator explores how reuse is understood and documented. It looks at tools and activities for identifying which datasets are reused and how, along with efforts to understand reusers’ needs. It also considers whether reuse cases are gathered and classified systematically.
Created impact - governmental - social - environmental - economic	This indicator evaluates whether the impact of open data reuse has been studied and documented across key domains. It looks at evidence and examples of impact in the following domains. Governmental. Efficiency, transparency, policymaking and decision-making. Social. Inclusion, health, housing, education and data literacy. Environmental. Biodiversity, sustainable cities, climate change mitigation and renewable adoption. Economic. Gross domestic product, employment, productivity, innovation, entrepreneurship and business creation.

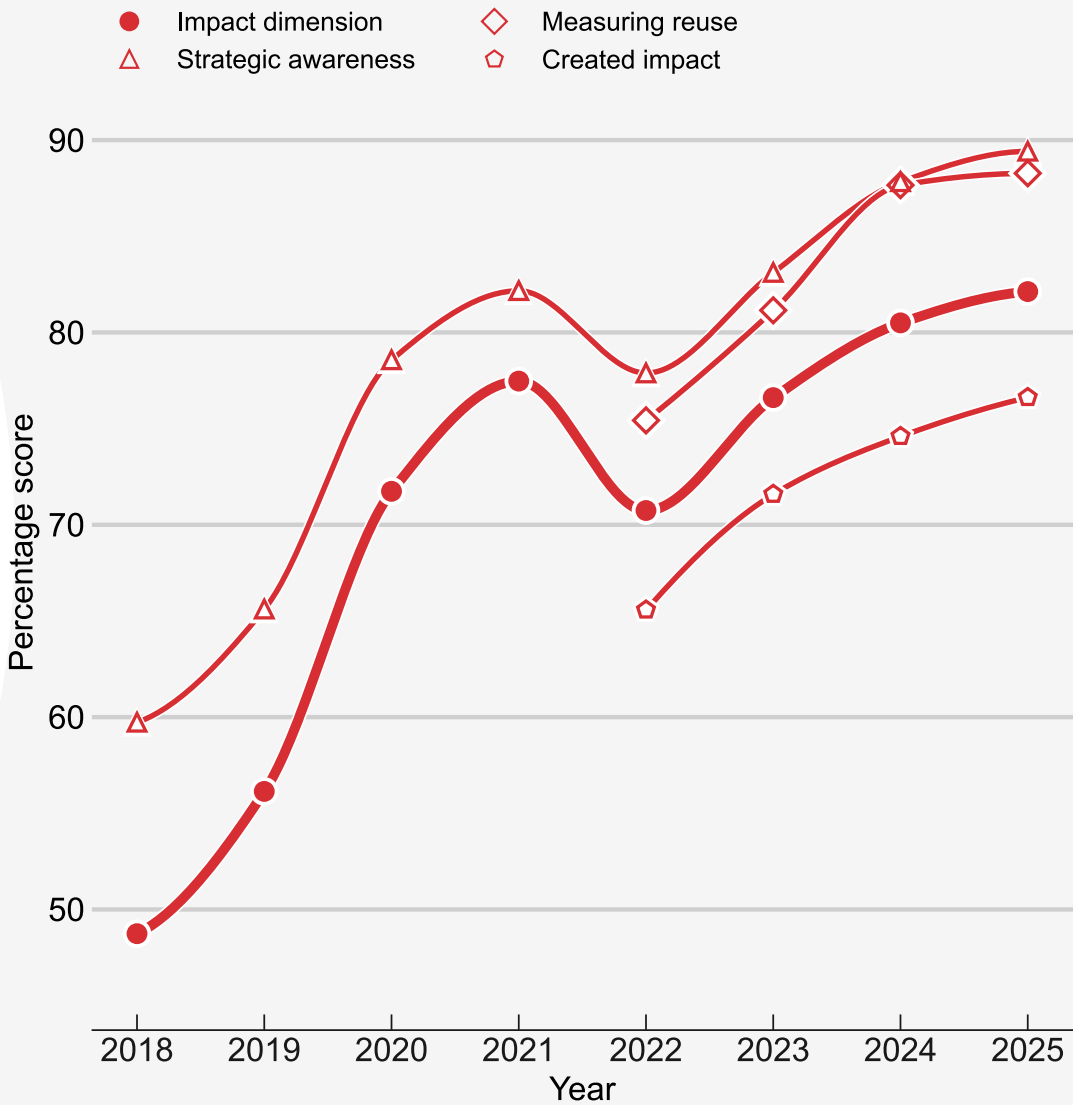


Figure 5: Impact maturity score over time. EU-27, 2018–2025.

Use open data portals as the starting point for monitoring open data reuse

National portals can benefit from implementing technical monitoring mechanisms such as tools for portal analytics that measure dataset views and downloads to gather information on how data is accessed and used. Complementing these quantitative indicators with qualitative inputs, such as surveys, interviews and direct outreach, can help understand the real-world barriers to reuse. Collaboration across government organisations and with the wider reuser community further enhances the depth of the insights collected. This integrated approach can enable public bodies to assess reuse more comprehensively and to ultimately optimise their portal services to address emerging needs and challenges.



France

France continuously monitors the impact of open data reuse through a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods (read about the methods [on this web page](#)). The national open data portal tracks dataset visits, downloads and reuse metrics, providing insights into data popularity and trends. Users are encouraged to share their reuse cases, which are actively monitored to ensure visibility for both reusers and data providers. Additionally, regular interviews with data producers and reusers help identify key applications and challenges. Surveys further contribute to understanding the landscape of open data reuse, while community engagement efforts foster collaboration across different sectors. This structured approach ensures that open data's impact is consistently assessed and leveraged for further improvement.



Ireland

Ireland monitors the reuse of open data through national-level processes that track data engagement and user feedback. This ensures transparency and helps assess the effectiveness of the portal in making data accessible and useful. The national open data portal provides tools to measure reuse, including dataset views, downloads and overall portal activity, with publicly available statistics offering insights into data access trends. Additionally, the open data unit actively engages with data users, organising meetings and gathering feedback to improve the portal's offerings. This combined approach helps ensure that open data remains relevant and widely utilised.



Spain

Spain continuously monitors the reuse of open data to track its impact. By leveraging advanced analytics, Spain ensures that engagement with datasets is accurately measured and that key trends are identified. The national open data portal uses tracking tools to monitor dataset views, downloads and user interactions, with real-time reports providing insights into data popularity. Additionally, proactive outreach efforts identify and showcase new reuse cases through social media campaigns and direct engagement with data users. This includes an active group of over 400 small and medium-sized enterprises that have created innovative solutions (explore the showcase [on this web page](#)). Collaboration with local and regional public bodies further strengthens the monitoring process, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of open data's reach and effectiveness.

Promote and monitor open data reuse through events and showcases

To maximise the impact of open data, national authorities can actively promote open data reuse through outreach and visibility initiatives. Organising public events, such as hackathons, seminars and workshops, can help bring together developers, businesses, researchers and public agencies, creating opportunities to experiment with datasets and develop innovative data-driven solutions. Dedicated showcase sections on national open data portals further increase awareness of open data reuse by highlighting real-world applications and inspiring new use cases. Complementing these activities with regular scanning of social media, community submissions and user analytics enables governments to track emerging applications and understand how open data is contributing to societal and economic value. By making reuse visible, accessible and celebrated, countries can strengthen engagement with reusers and foster a more vibrant, innovation-oriented open data ecosystem.



Greece

Greece promotes the reuse of open data by organising hackathons that bring together developers, businesses, and public agencies. These events aim to increase awareness of open data's potential and encourage the development of innovative solutions using publicly available datasets. By providing a structured environment for collaboration, participants can experiment with real-world data, create new applications and showcase their work. This approach helps demonstrate the value of open data while fostering engagement from a broad range of stakeholders, ultimately enhancing its impact across different sectors.



Poland

Poland highlights and encourages the reuse of open data by providing a dedicated section on its national open data portal for showcasing real-world applications. This initiative aims to increase awareness of how open data is used while inspiring further innovation. Users can submit examples of applications that utilise open data, which are then displayed in a prominent section of the portal. To improve visibility, the showcase section has been redesigned and renamed 'PoCoTo' ('What it is for'), making it more engaging and accessible from the main page. This approach ensures that open data's impact is both visible and widely recognised.



Lithuania

Lithuania actively promotes the reuse of open data by showcasing successful examples through public events, seminars and workshops. These initiatives aim to highlight the impact of open data while encouraging further engagement from different sectors. To identify relevant use cases, the State Data Agency continuously monitors the media, social media and research communities. Additionally, the national open data portal includes tools for monitoring data usage and collecting user feedback, ensuring that insights into data reuse are regularly gathered and shared. By making successful applications visible, Lithuania fosters a culture of innovation and strengthens the open data ecosystem.

Conduct periodic, structured evaluations to measure open data impact

To ensure that open data continues to deliver value and remains aligned with national priorities, countries can embed structured, periodic evaluations into their governance frameworks. These assessments help governments track how open data is being reused and measure societal and economic benefits. By integrating these assessments into national frameworks, public bodies systematically review open data impact through annual reports and dedicated research activities and gain a clearer understanding of sector-specific trends and the evolving demand for open data. Ultimately, structured monitoring allows governments to refine their open data strategies based on real-world evidence.



Poland

Poland conducts periodic evaluations of open data reuse to assess its impact and guide future improvements. Each ministry appoints open data officers responsible for monitoring reuse and reporting findings annually, forming the basis of national implementation reports. Additionally, dedicated research activities provide insights into market trends and user behaviour, informing policy adjustments. This structured approach ensures that public administration bodies contribute to a comprehensive understanding of data usage. The evaluation process also includes a public showcase of reuse cases, increasing visibility and engagement. By combining structured reporting with research and public participation, Poland continuously refines its open data strategy.



Italy

Italy conducts periodic evaluations to assess the use and impact of open data within public administration. This ensures that open data policies align with broader digital transformation efforts and contribute to the development of digital services. The evaluation process is embedded in national ICT planning, with findings included in an annual report on ICT spending in public administration. This report analyses open data's role in supporting web and mobile applications, dashboards and real-time data analysis. Additionally, the implementation of open-data-related actions is systematically monitored as part of Italy's three-year ICT plan. By linking open data evaluation to strategic digital objectives, Italy ensures that its open data policies drive tangible benefits and innovation.



Cyprus

Cyprus ensures the periodic evaluation of open data impact through commissioned impact studies conducted at regular intervals. This structured approach allows for a comprehensive assessment of both visible and less tangible reuse cases, helping to measure the broader societal and economic benefits of open data. These studies provide valuable insights into how open data is leveraged across different sectors and inform future policy decisions. By systematically evaluating open data's influence over time, Cyprus ensures that its open data strategy remains relevant and continues to drive meaningful outcomes.

Country quotes



Czechia

‘We are trying to keep an active community of data users and data journalists, so we can better communicate the needs of the users to the providers. It helps us to better react to the needs and get the instant information about application, analysis and other usage of the data.’



Denmark

‘When collaborating with public authorities, we focus on the needs of the people they serve – not just the authorities’ internal needs. That is, we take the side of the users. This perspective leads to broader impact and greater public value.

Efforts to document “value realisation” can sometimes create incentives that actually make data harder to access (e.g. requiring login to track users).

The value created by the data portal is hard to separate from the value created by the organisations that publish and distribute the data.’



Poland

‘Experience has taught us that there are no shortcuts in collecting data on impact. The most important thing is to reach and maintain contacts with the right people who reuse open data, who can share their experience and knowledge about reuse cases and their impact. We establish contacts at every opportunity and in various forms. We conclude formal cooperation agreements with local governments. We participate in conferences where we meet open data enthusiasts from various stakeholder groups. We maintain contacts with participants of our trainings. It pays off.’

CONCLUSION

Across the four dimensions of the ODM framework, a set of defining factors emerges that underpin high-maturity open data ecosystems. One factor is a strong focus on users. This **user orientation** is reflected in the design of national portals as integrated, user-centred entry points, in the structured engagement with data providers and reusers and in the systematic use of feedback and analytics to guide continuous improvement.

Another common element is the **combination of structured governance with practical implementation**. Clear strategies, formal coordination bodies and defined roles only translate into ODM when they are supported by concrete operational processes, tools and recurring interactions. This alignment ensures consistency across institutions and prevents open data policies from remaining purely aspirational.

Approaches to ensure high metadata quality are a key enabler of ODM. High-maturity countries prioritise metadata quality, interoperability and compliance with standards through a mix of mandatory requirements, automated checks and transparent monitoring. By increasing metadata quality, countries create the conditions necessary for the meaningful reuse of data.

Ongoing support and capacity building further distinguish high-maturity ecosystems. Training, guidance materials, advisory services and tailored one-on-one assistance help data providers comply with standards and progressively improve their practices.

Finally, high ODM is characterised by **evidence-based learning and adaptation**. High-maturity systems embed monitoring, evaluation, and feedback loops into their strategies, using analytics, reuse tracking and impact assessments to refine policies, portals and support mechanisms over time. This puts countries in a better position to sustain their progress and maximise the societal and economic value of open data.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Policy dimension

- No 1: Establish a dedicated, multi-stakeholder group for governing national open data affairs
- No 2: Establish an online community platform to enable dialogue and knowledge sharing
- No 3: Establish dedicated programmes that provide technical guidance and funding for local and regional open data initiatives

Portal dimension

- No 1: Design a comprehensive national portal that provides a one-stop shop for users
- No 2: Ensure the relevancy of national portals by adapting features based on user analytics and structured user engagement
- #3 Streamline open data publication through centralised support for data providers and automated harvesting

Quality dimension

- No 1: Monitor and enhance metadata quality based on standardised assessment frameworks
- No 2: Enforce mandatory metadata requirements and pre-publication quality checks to ensure consistent, high-quality open data
- No 3: Provide tailored, one-on-one support to data providers

Impact dimension

- No 1: Use open data portals as the starting point for monitoring open data reuse
- No 2: Promote and monitor open data reuse through events and showcases
- No 3: Conduct periodic, structured evaluations to measure open data impact

