Open Data and National Statistics: Working together

UN World Data Forum
Cape Town, South Africa
16 January 2017

OPEN DATA WATCH

National Statistical Systems have an interest in Open Data

Principle 1. Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society... [they] are to be compiled made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.

The Open Data Community has an interest in National Statistical Systems

The International Open Data Charter suggests two BIG reasons

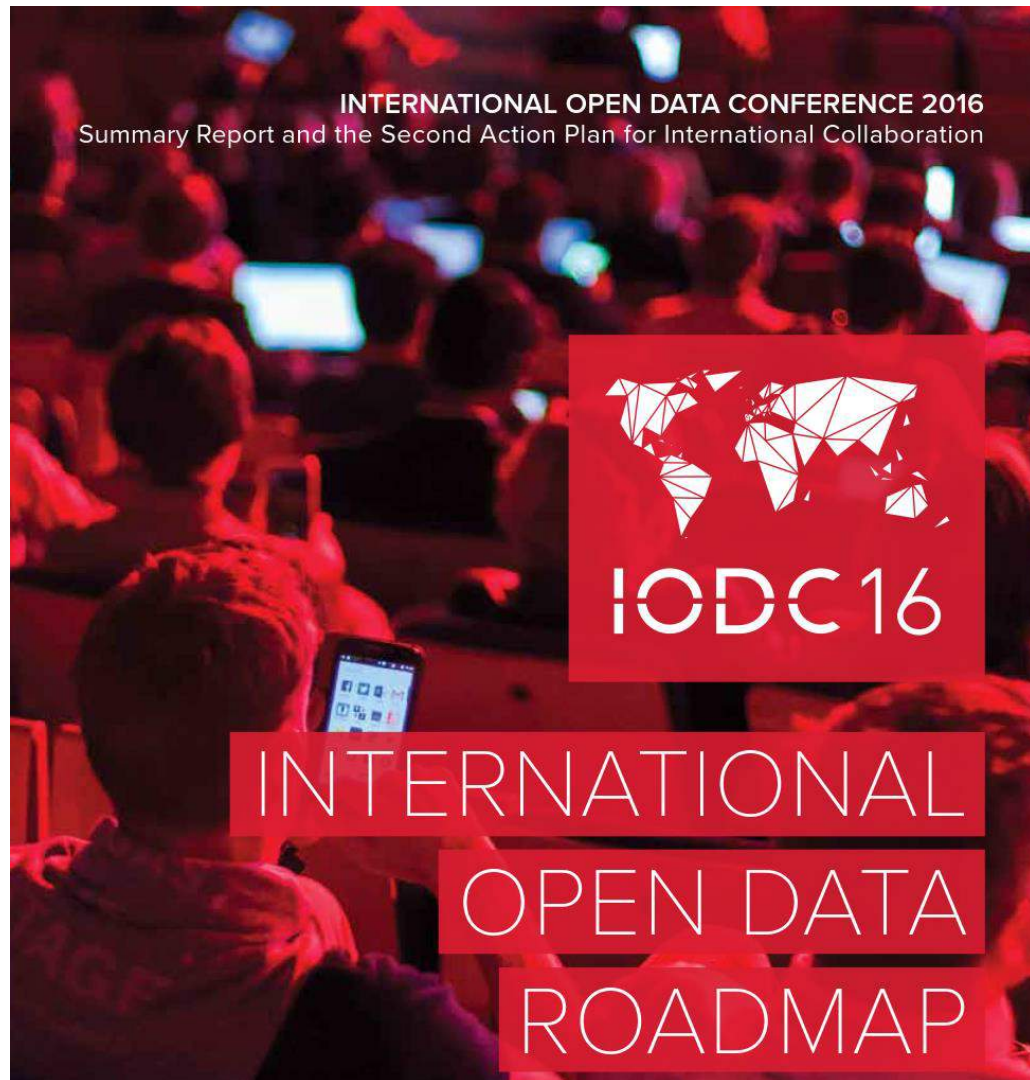For improved governance and citizen engagement

For inclusive development and innovation

open data charter

But national statistics can get lost in the larger world of open data

Data Categories from the Open Data Barometer		
Mapping data	Company registration	Primary and secondary education performance ✓
Land ownership	Legislation	Crime statistics ✓
National statistics ✓	Public transport timetables	National environmental statistics ✓
Detailed budget data	International trade ✓	National Elections Results
Government spending	Health sector performance ✓	Public contracting

Top-level government-wide support for open data can be a powerful incentive for open national statistics, and may bring greater resources to the effort.
But it may also cause traditional fields of statistics to be overlooked in the excitement to release data that get larger headlines.

INTERNATIONAL OPEN DATA CONFERENCE 2016
Summary Report and the Second Action Plan for International Collaboration

IODC 16

INTERNATIONAL OPEN DATA ROADMAP

At the 2016 International Open Data Conference, the NSO and Open Data Communities had a chance to share ideas

Open Data Challenges for NSOs & Their Partners

NATIONAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

- Legal & Political
- Coordination & Planning
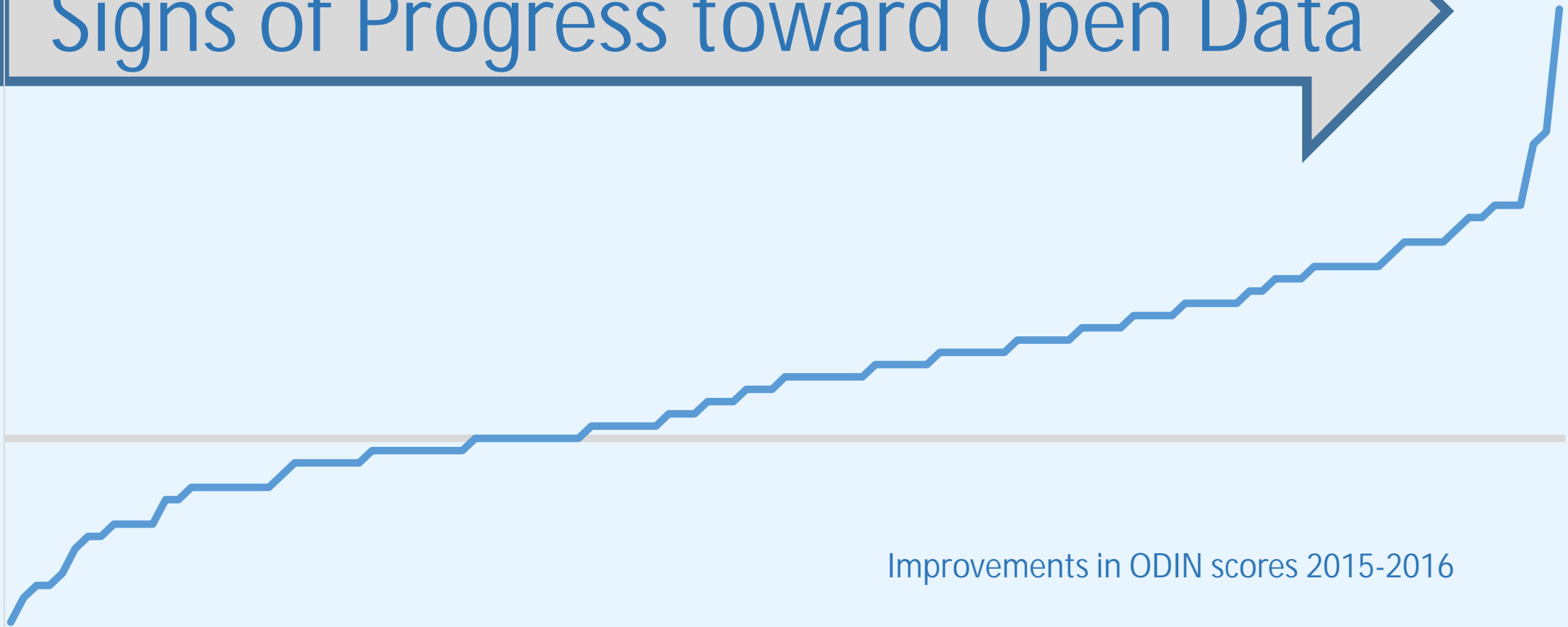- Technical: Standards & Facilities
- Capacity: Human & Financial
- User Needs & Feedback

Opportunities & Tools

ODRA – Open Data Readiness Assessment (World Bank)
Action-oriented assessment of government's readiness for an open data initiative

ADAPT – Advanced Data Planning Tool (PARIS21)
Web-based planning tool to bring stakeholders together

ODIN – Open Data Inventory (Open Data Watch)
Objective assessment of the coverage and openness of NSOs data offerings

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
Data4SDGs Toolbox – tools, methods, and resources to address institutional, policy technical, and capacity issues

Data Roadmaps -- A tool for countries to engage stakeholders in a plan for monitoring the SDGs

Digital Marketplace – Make connections and find solutions to data challenges
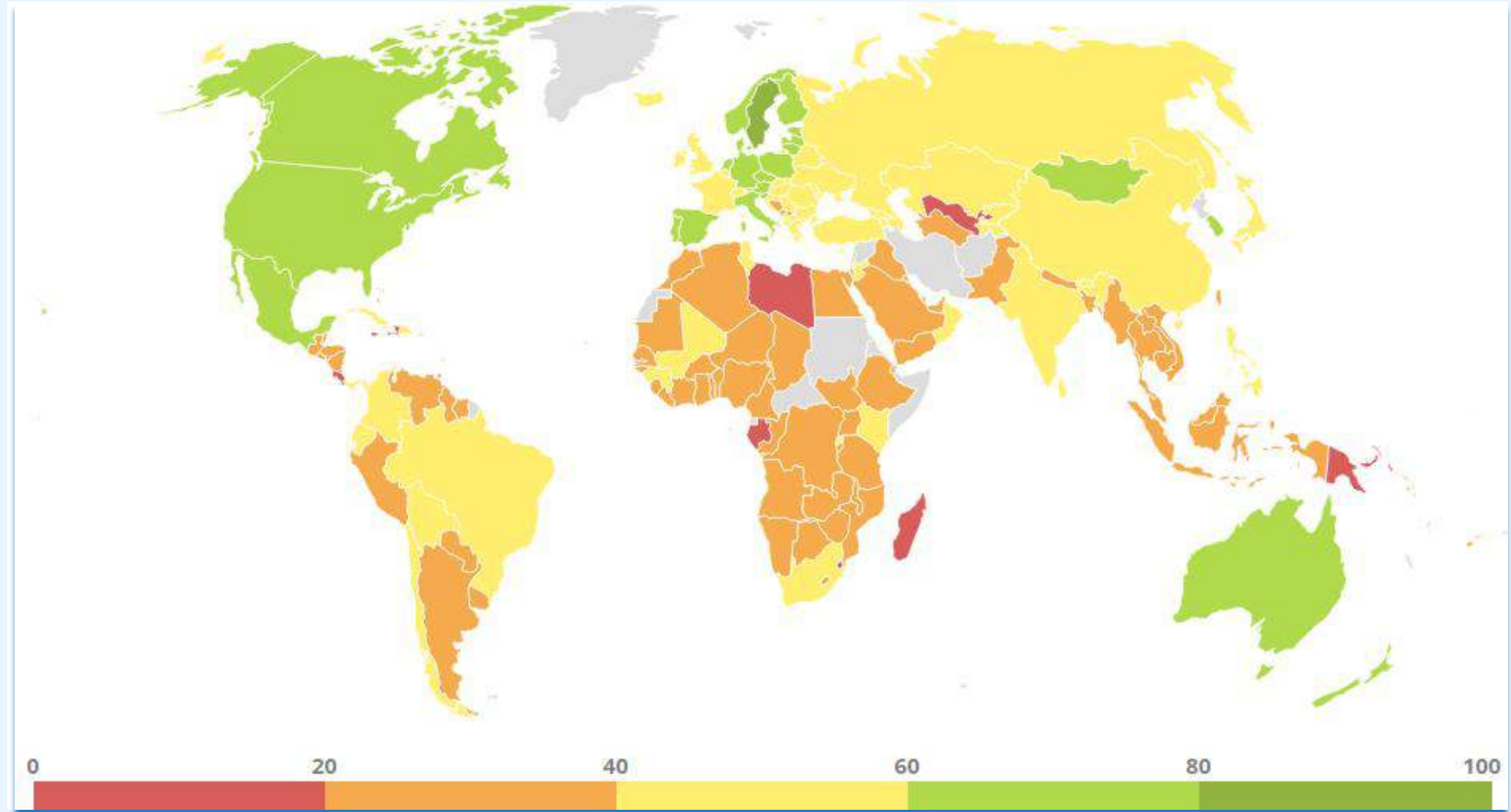
The Open Data Inventory assesses the coverage and openness of national statistics in 20 data categories.

Signs of Progress toward Open Data
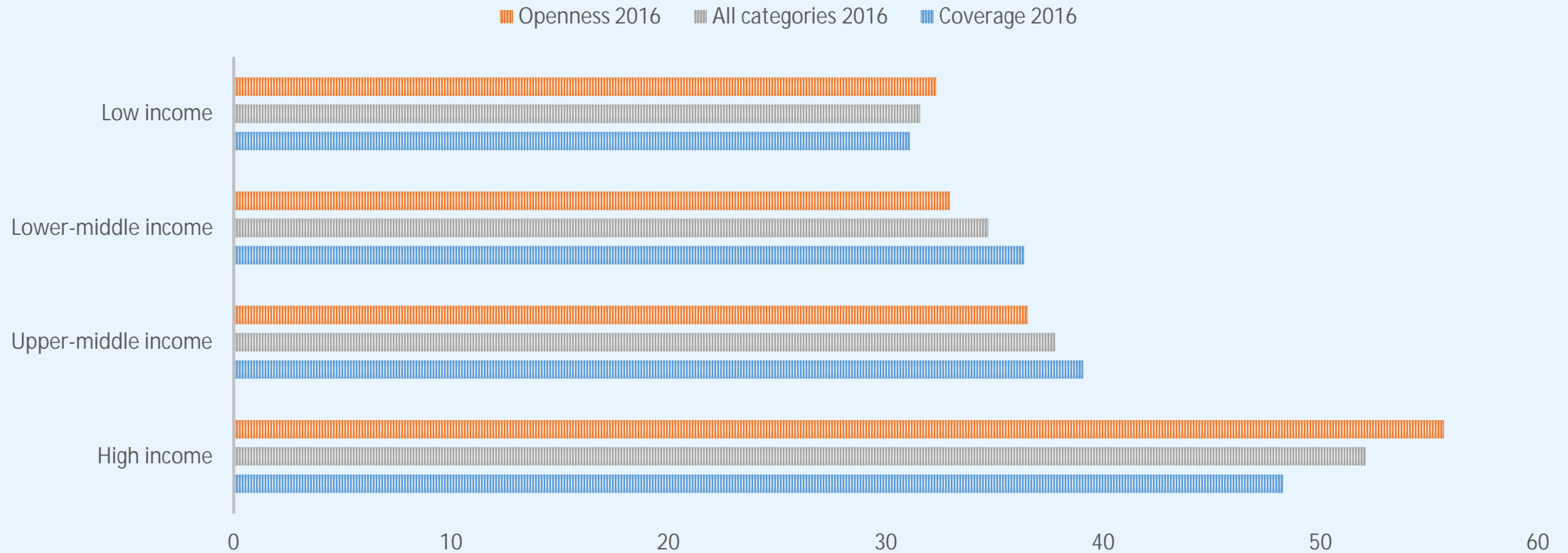
Improvements in ODIN scores 2015-2016

48 more countries included in 2016

Richer countries had higher average scores

But differences among middle- and low-income countries were small

SCORES BY INCOME GROUP

■ Openness 2016   ■ All categories 2016   ■ Coverage 2016

Some countries have taken the first steps

Sierra Leone
http://www.statistics.sl

Subscores	Coverage		Openness		All Elements	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Social Statistics	39	46	15	30	27	38
Economic Statistics	65	57	16	39	37	47
Environment Statistics	12	14	10	12	11	13
All Categories	36	38	14	27	25	32

Malaysia
https://www.statistics.gov.my

Subscores	Coverage		Openness		All Elements	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Social Statistics	11	21	6	33	9	27
Economic Statistics	61	43	23	46	40	44
Environment Statistics	18	40	14	38	16	39
All Categories	28	34	14	39	21	36

Sierra Leone converted many published datasets into open formats and improved its coverage of social statistics.
Malaysia launched a new data portal with many datasets available in open formats.
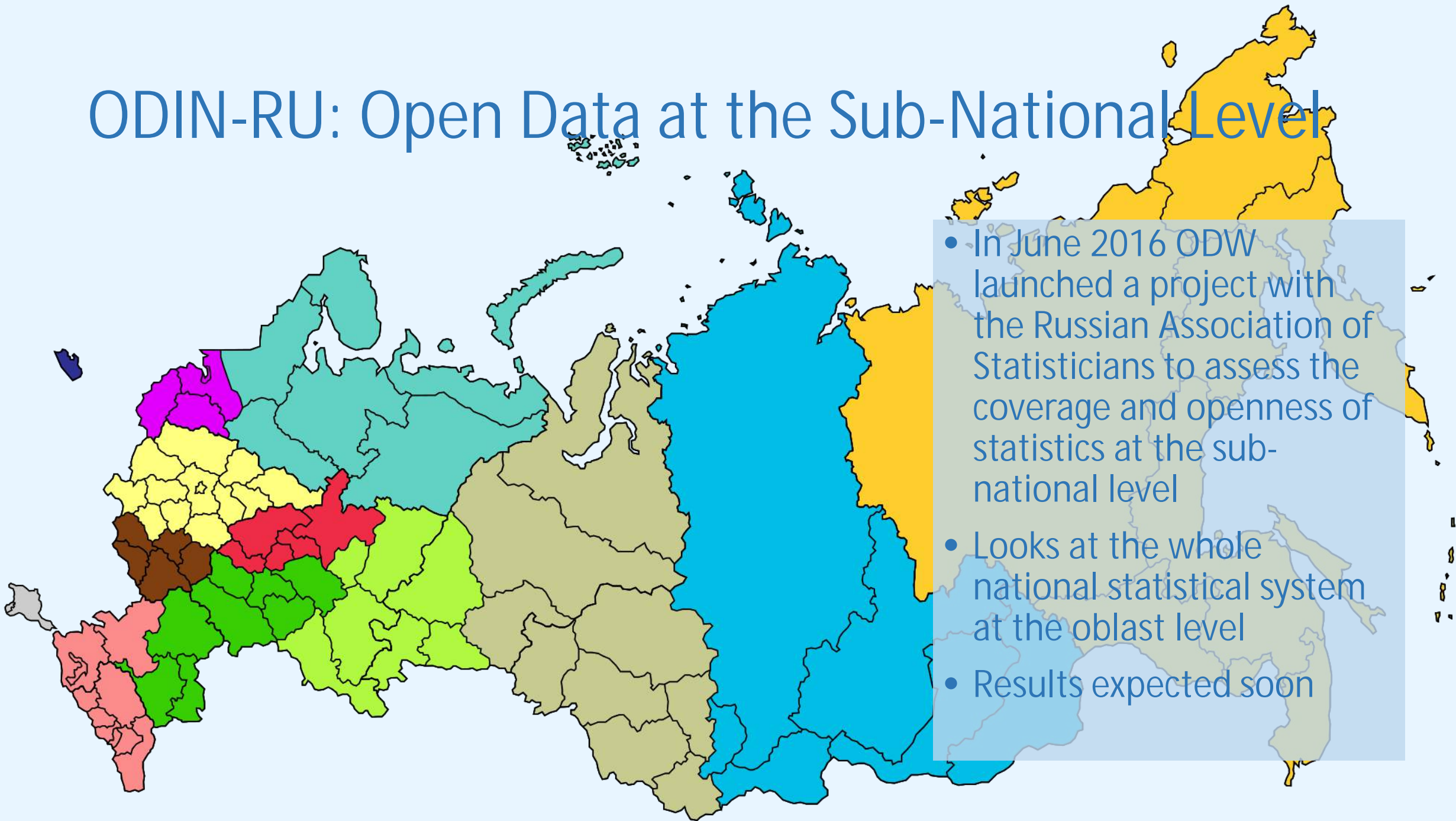
Ecuador has linked data from various agencies, made many datasets available in open formats, and adopted an open license (CC-BY 4.0).
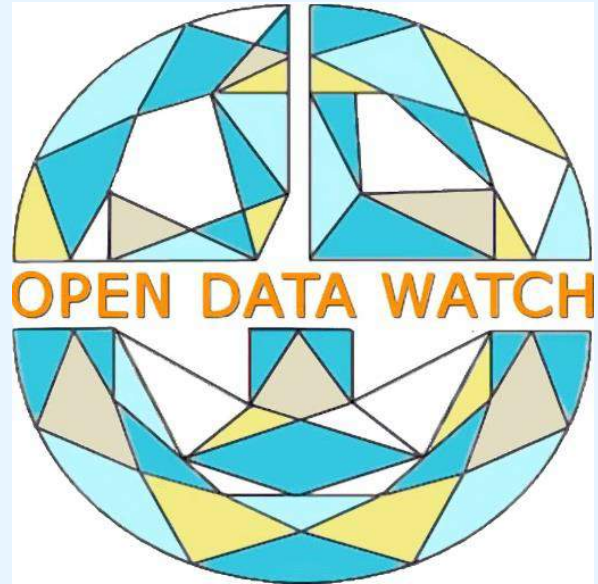
ODIN-RU: Open Data at the Sub-National Level

- In June 2016 ODW launched a project with the Russian Association of Statisticians to assess the coverage and openness of statistics at the sub-national level

- Looks at the whole national statistical system at the oblast level

- Results expected soon

What have we learned

- Given political support and legal authority, many NSOs can make their data open by publishing open terms of use and making their data available in non-proprietary, machine-readable formats

- For many countries, the greater challenge is to increase their capacity to produce the full range of data expected of them

- The SDGs have increased the scope and scale of this challenge

- National statistical systems can and should be in the vanguard of the open data movement: that will require innovative methods, human and financial resources, and strong leadership.

For more information, visit
www.opendatawatch.com
odin.opendatawatch.com