



OPEN KNOWLEDGE

## Country Insights: The Highlights

- The United Kingdom, a leader in open government, topped the Index again
- The Russian Federation falls well behind its recent G7/8 peers coming in at #45
- India dramatically improved to #10 - launching a new data portal coincided with a major push to release more and better data
- Colombia - First time included in the index and ranked 12th along with Uruguay, ranking the same as progressive Sweden (also #12) and leaving behind Austria on #22
- Africa - South Africa is leading the continent in 36th place on the global scale, but the next one after it Burkina Faso in #59. Guinea is closing the list as #97. Main issues are not the openness of data but the lack of data.
- Asia: Taiwan #11, Japan #19, Korea #28 - High Income at the top, the rest to follow.
- Balkan countries - Serbia - 48, Croatia - #51, Bosnia - #87 globally BUT Kosovo is #31...
- **France:** Most improved award goes to the government of France now at #3 up from #12 last year. The French government has put significant effort on opening data to the public while having a dialogue with civil society. They also launched a new data portal and have a strong emphasis on releasing data in bulk and in a machine readable format, which has given them points. There are still some key issues, but France can top the leaderboard next year if it keeps up the work they are doing.
- Greece, a country which has been in the headlines with regards to its government spending, has scored high on openness of government spending. Thanks to a new spending portal <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/> Greece is one of only two countries who scored full marks on the openness of government spending in the Global Open Data Index 2014.





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## Emerging Topics

- Government budgets are published quite widely by now, but actual information about government spending still leaves a lot to be desired for, even in countries which are doing quite well overall. Apparently, some data is easier to open than other. Government budget is one of the most open datasets in the world and score the score of 62% open. However, government spending, which actually monitor the budget execution is only 13% open, with only two countries - UK and Greece scored 100%. Why is this not as open, and what does it tell us about government policies?
- Only 11% of data-sets assessed are compliant with the Open Definition. 'On paper' a lot of 'open' data is published. But our Index checks for all requirements for data to be truly open and in compliance with the open definition. Only a small percentage of the 970 datasets checked, 11%, adheres to the open definition. So there remains a question how much of the data which is published as 'open' is really fully interoperable, accessible and useful.
- Pollutant emissions are published most openly in France, the UK, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the US, Canada, India, Japan, Turkey, Bulgaria and Chile (all 70% or more) but many countries in Southern Europe, Africa, Latin America as well as China still have to catch up on environmental data.
- Publicly available company registers are a big development area where much remains to be done, most notably among the influential countries is that the big economies USA and Germany both are still lacking open, consolidated company registers, which has cost them points on the Index.
- Legislation data is published quite widely across Europe, the US and Canada, parts of Latin America, in India and in parts of the Far East. In most other parts of the world, legislative open data is still a development area.

