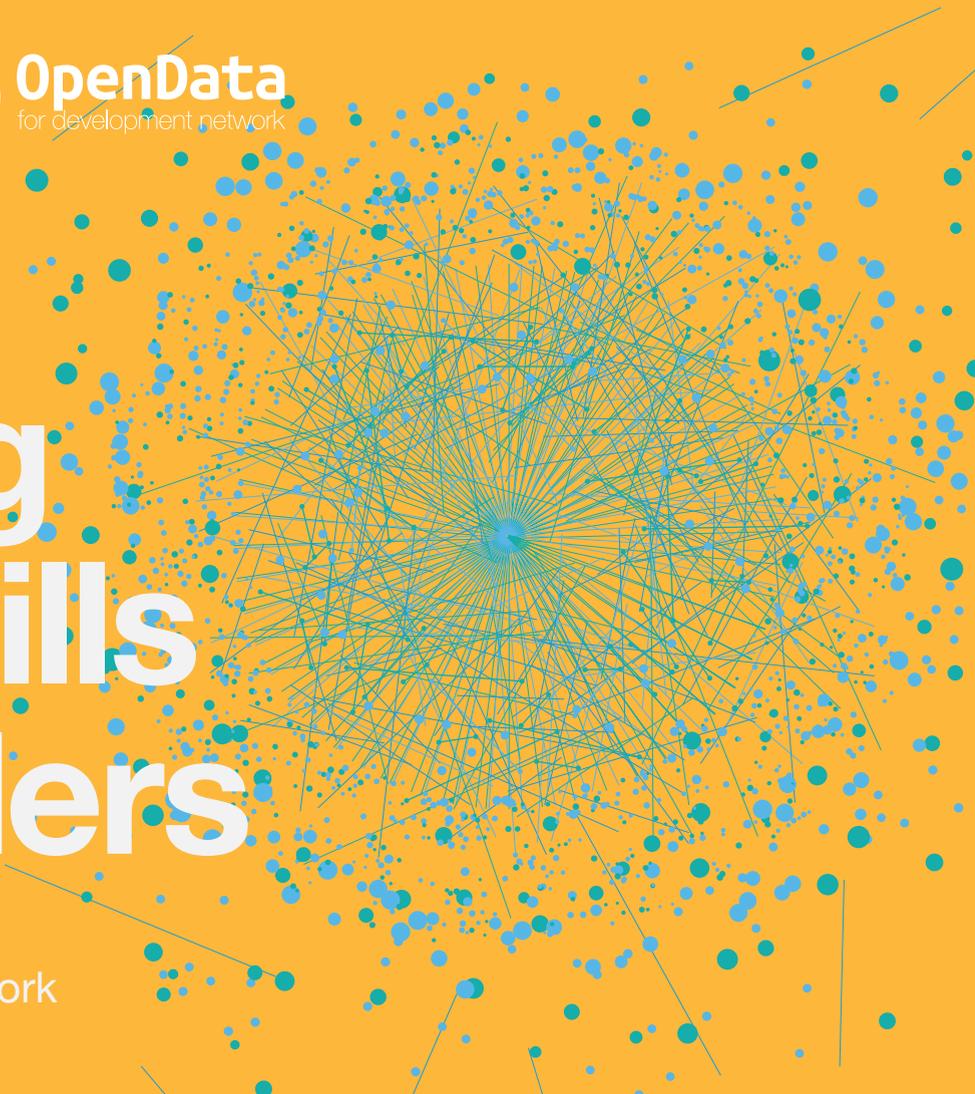# Building data skills for leaders

The Open Data Leaders Network

Around the world, people are using open data to innovate, improve decision-making and become more efficient.

Civil servants leading open data initiatives need skills in order to gain support for their ideas, secure resources to sustain their plans, and create long-term impact.

The Open Data Leaders Network is a peer network, that creates space for civil servants from around the world to exchange knowledge, tools, challenges, practices and plans.

ODLN members (Left to right) Sandra Elena, Robertus Theodore, Benedikt Kotmel, Tadeusz Osowski, Linet Kwamboka Nyang'au, Alannah Hilt, Neil Hoorn

Quote: Benedikt Kotmel, Czech Republic

"I now have an arsenal of tools to deliver my message better"
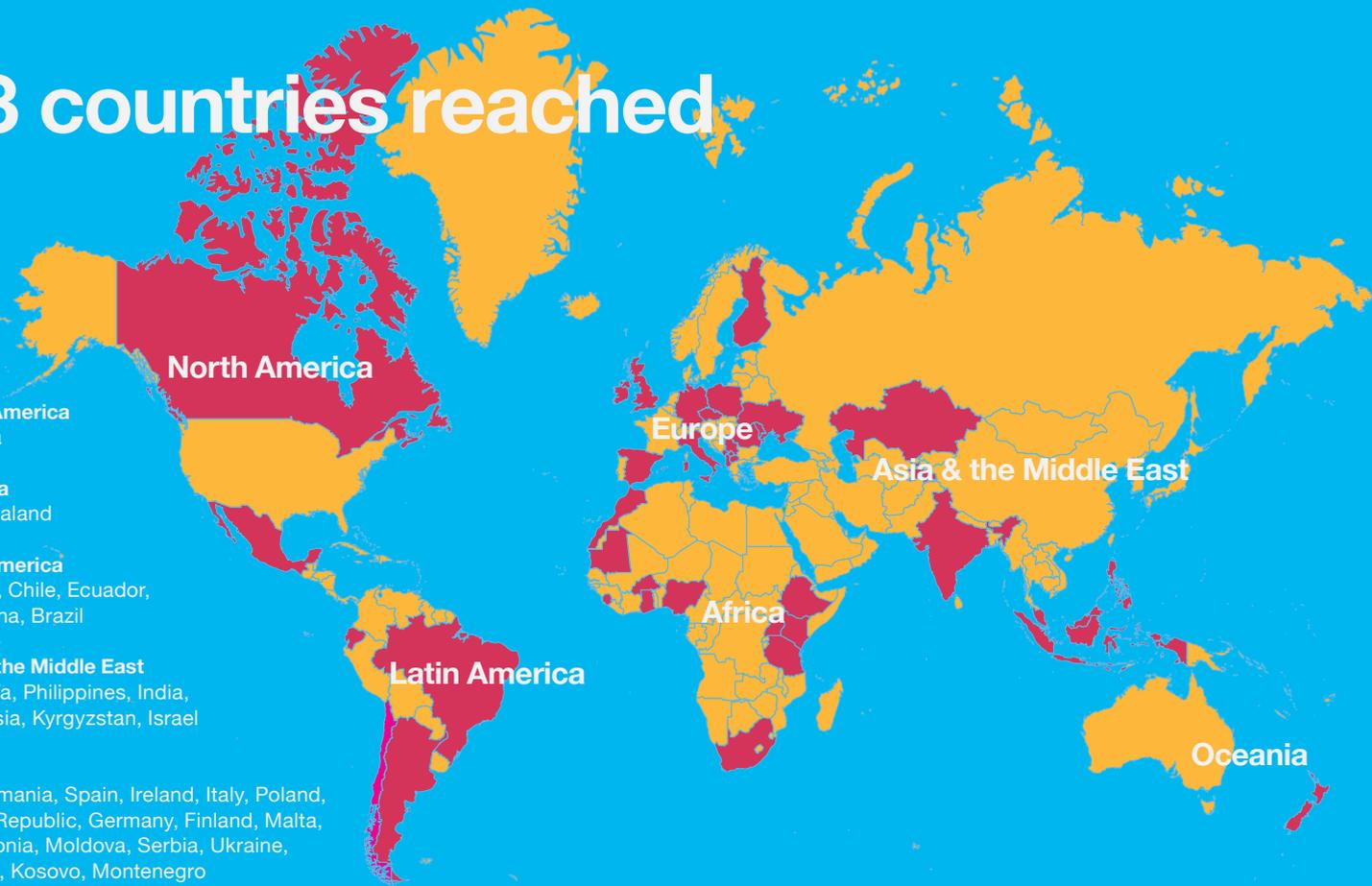
43 countries reached

North America
Canada

Oceania
New Zealand

Latin America
Mexico, Chile, Ecuador,
Argentina, Brazil

Asia & the Middle East
Malaysia, Philippines, India,
Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Israel

Europe
UK, Romania, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Poland,
Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, Malta,
Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine,
Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro

Africa
Morocco, Nigeria, Tanzania, Burkina
Faso, South Africa, Kenya, Sierra Leone,
Ethiopia, Mauritania, Uganda, Ghana

North America

Europe

Asia & the Middle East

Africa

Latin America

Oceania

What skills do leaders need?

In 2017 we assessed the challenges and training needs of data leaders working within government using the ODI's data skills framework. The data skills framework is a simple framework that describes the knowledge and skills of anyone interacting with data, from beginner through to expert level.

The most common challenges among leaders were:

- lack of senior support **(64%)**
- lack of coordination between different departments **(61%)**
- lack of skills to publish data well **(53%)**
- lack of technical infrastructure to publish data well **(53%)**

We discovered that the skills most in demand from leaders were:

- measuring success of data initiatives **(86%)**
- making data more usable **(77%)**
- data publishing **(72%)**
- data visualisation **(72%)**

Introductions

Business

Publishing

Analysis

Management

Leadership

Introducing open data

Introducing open data

Cleaning data

Sustaining open data

Improving quality

Boosting usability

Introducing open data

Licensing data

CSV Choosing formats

Using data analytics

Building communities

Using platforms

Linking data

Designing services

Managing change

Applying statistics

Visualising data

Measuring success

Developing policy

Finding insights

Generating revenue

Developing strategy

Trand analysis

Interacting with data

Prioritising action

Leading change

Developing data science

How do leaders benefit from the network?

Leaders gained knowledge and skills, ideas and techniques to solve problems, contacts and a global platform to share their successes. Leaders within this wider network keep in touch, and give and receive ongoing support directly and through events, outputs and online learning.

Our curriculum and support programme offers leaders training and peer-learning on:

- global open data trends
- change management and leadership
- innovative approaches
- understanding data users
- promoting data use and impact

What next?

Going forward we are seeking to partner with donors, governments, industry experts and academic institutions to continue delivering a high quality programme.

Get in touch

If you are interested in learning more about peer networks, the data skills framework, or exploring partnership or sponsorship opportunities, please get in touch with us at **info@theodi.org**

Visit **theodi.org/open-data-leaders-network**

Quote: Martin Andago, Kenya

"Sometimes you think you're ahead of the pack, but then come across ideas and think 'we haven't thought of that, let's implement that.'"