The Open Data Institute
Our plan for 2023

About this document

In February 2023, the Open Data Institute (ODI) publishes its [5 Year Strategy 2023–2028](#). The following document sets out the ODI's key areas of work for the first year of the strategy, aligned with the principles, priorities and commitments that are set out within it.

In each year of the strategy, we will hold true to the six guiding principles that are rooted in our core identity, our position in the world and our unique body of knowledge and expertise.

They are:

Principle 1: We believe that a **strong data infrastructure** is the foundation for building an open, trustworthy data ecosystem on a global scale and that this can help address our most pressing challenges.

Principle 2: Strong data infrastructure includes data across the spectrum, from open to shared to closed. **But the best possible foundation is open data**, supported and sustained as data infrastructure. Only with this foundation will people, businesses and governments be able to realise the potential of data infrastructure across society and the economy.

Principle 3: For data to work for everyone, it needs to work across borders – geographic, organisational, economic, cultural and political. **For this to happen ethically and sustainably, there needs to be trust** – trust in data and trust in those who share it.

Principle 4: There is greater need than ever for **trusted, independent organisations** to help people across all sectors, economies and societies to benefit from better data infrastructure.

Principle 5: For data to work for everyone, those collecting and using it need to be highly alert to inequalities, biases and power asymmetries. All organisations working in data must take proactive steps to ensure that they contribute fully and consciously to creating **a diverse, equitable and inclusive data ecosystem**.

Principle 6: The world needs a new cohort of data leaders – individuals who **have data knowledge and skills and are equipped to understand the value, limitations and opportunities offered by data**, data practices and data sharing

In addition to our principles, we have outlined a set of priorities and commitments that over five years, will enable us to contribute most effectively to the creation of an open,

trustworthy data ecosystem.

- **Our priorities** are the areas where we believe we can have the greatest positive impact and make the most significant contribution. They are informed by insights and an understanding – and continued assessment – of the market, our stakeholders, audiences, competition and the ever-changing world around us. **These are areas in which the ODI is uniquely or best-placed to act, where we have expertise and networks to enable us to respond to external factors.**

- **Our commitments** are the actions that we will take to deliver on our priorities. **They are the practical things we will do over the next five years to avoid negative consequences and maximise social, economic and environmental value.**

Our priorities and commitments are not all equally urgent. Our work in each of the next five years will naturally focus in particular areas, as we work towards the fulfillment of our mission. Over the period covered by the strategy, we will deliver on each of the priorities or – where external circumstances change – adjust them accordingly.

Each year, we will publish a separate summary for where our attention will lie in that specific twelve month period. Our focus in 2023 is set out below. At the conclusion of each year, we will evaluate progress against our intentions and share what we have learned.

This is a new way of working for the ODI and in common with any new process, we fully expect that as we test it in our day-to-day work we will iterate further and make it better. Our aim is to stay on track and accountable; true to our principles, aligned with our mission and inspired by our vision for a world where data works for everyone.

Our priorities, commitments and outcomes for 2023

Principle 1: We believe that a **strong data infrastructure** is the foundation for building an open, trustworthy data ecosystem on a global scale and that this can help address our most pressing challenges.

2023 priority:
- Contribute positively to building, hosting and stewarding key data infrastructure.

Commitments and outcomes
- We will work across sectors to find further opportunities to build nationally significant data institutions and create open standards to unlock value and enable innovation in new industries
- We will build a body of knowledge by conducting further original research and innovation activities to inform the effective building of data infrastructure, continuing to be the centre of global expertise on novel models for sharing and stewarding data in safe environments

Principle 2: Strong data infrastructure includes data across the spectrum, from open to shared to closed. **But the best possible foundation is open data**, supported and sustained as data infrastructure. Only with this foundation will people, businesses and governments be able to realise the potential of data infrastructure across society and the economy.

2023 priorities:
- Preserve our core commitment to open data as the key foundation for data infrastructure
- Maintain our leading edge in research and thought leadership about open data and the data spectrum and enable many more people worldwide to see and use our free content and tools
- Build engagement and collaboration at global scale – enabling others to think and do things in new ways, taking our ideas far and wide and enriching them with new perspectives

Commitments and outcomes
- We will continue to seek funding partners and invest in:
  - original research

  - public policy work and advocacy – nationally and internationally

  - events and other forms of convening

  - innovation and thought leadership

- We will identify and work with those who need specific help in the implementation of the knowledge, processes, tools and best practices around open data

Principle 3: For data to work for everyone, it needs to work across borders – geographic, organisational, economic, cultural and political. **For this to happen ethically and sustainably, there needs to be trust** – trust in data and trust in those who share it.

2023 priorities
- Work with others to build systems and processes to significantly advance trust in data and to professionalise the data space
- Work with governments to inform policies on trusted data sharing and the actions needed to make it a reality

Commitments and outcomes
- We will develop products and services that will be easy for organisations to access and adopt, making it simpler for them to share data and assure them of the quality and efficacy of the data shared by others
- We will build consultancy and advisory services to help organisations demonstrate and deliver trusted data and trustworthy data practices

Principle 4: There is greater need than ever for **trusted, independent organisations** to help

people across all sectors, economies and societies to benefit from better data infrastructure.

2023 priorities
- Further diversify our network and funding mechanisms while remaining committed to our original mission
- Ensure sustainability through a model that maintains, protects and grows the ODI's institutional core

Commitment and outcome
- We will build a sustainable business model – one that is sufficiently varied to allow us to remain independent of any one or small number of vested interests and explores potentially diversified revenue streams

Principle 5: For data to work for everyone, those collecting and using it need to be highly alert to inequalities, biases and power asymmetries. All organisations working in data must take proactive steps to ensure that they contribute fully and consciously to creating **a diverse, equitable and inclusive data ecosystem**.

2023 priority
- Commit to diversity, equity and inclusion in everything we do – from our internal operations to the delivery of projects and services

Commitment and outcome
- We will continue to take positive steps towards a workforce and leadership that reflect the diversity of the communities we work with
- We will continue to champion diverse, inclusive and equitable approaches to the use of data, including by amplifying the voices of marginalised, minoritised and oppressed communities, and by centring their perspectives in our work

Principle 6: The world needs a new cohort of data leaders – individuals who **have data knowledge and skills and are equipped to understand the value, limitations and opportunities offered by data**, data practices and data sharing

2023 priority
- Build greater data literacy for organisations worldwide, especially those leaders whose decisions affect others, developing the data literacy space to meet the requirements of an emerging profession

Commitment and outcome
- We will evolve the ODI's online learning offerings, enabling many more thousands of people across the world to take part in and benefit from our courses, and equipping the world's business and public sector leaders with the skills to run fully data-enabled organisations in trustworthy, reliable and ethical ways