OpenDataMonitor

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

D5.8 SYMPOSIUM SUMMARY

PROJECT

Acronym:	**OpenDataMonitor**
Title:	Monitoring, Analysis and Visualisation of Open Data Catalogues, Hubs and Repositories
Coordinator:	SYNYO GmbH
Reference:	**611988**
Type:	Collaborative project
Programme:	FP7-ICT
Start:	November 2013
Duration:	24 months
Website:	http://project.opendatamonitor.eu
	http://opendatamonitor.eu
E-Mail:	office@opendatamonitor.eu

Consortium:

SYNYO GmbH, Research & Development Department, Austria, (SYNYO)

Open Data Institute, Research Department, UK, (ODI)

Athena Research and Innovation Center, IMIS, Greece, (ATHENA)

University of Southampton, Web and Internet Science Group, UK, (SOTON)

Potsdam eGovernment Competence Center, Research Department, Germany, (IFG.CC)

City of Munich, Department of Labor and Economic Development, Germany, (MUNICH)

Entidad Publica Empresarial Red.es, Shared Service Department, Spain, (RED.ES)

DELIVERABLE

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1 INTRODUCTION

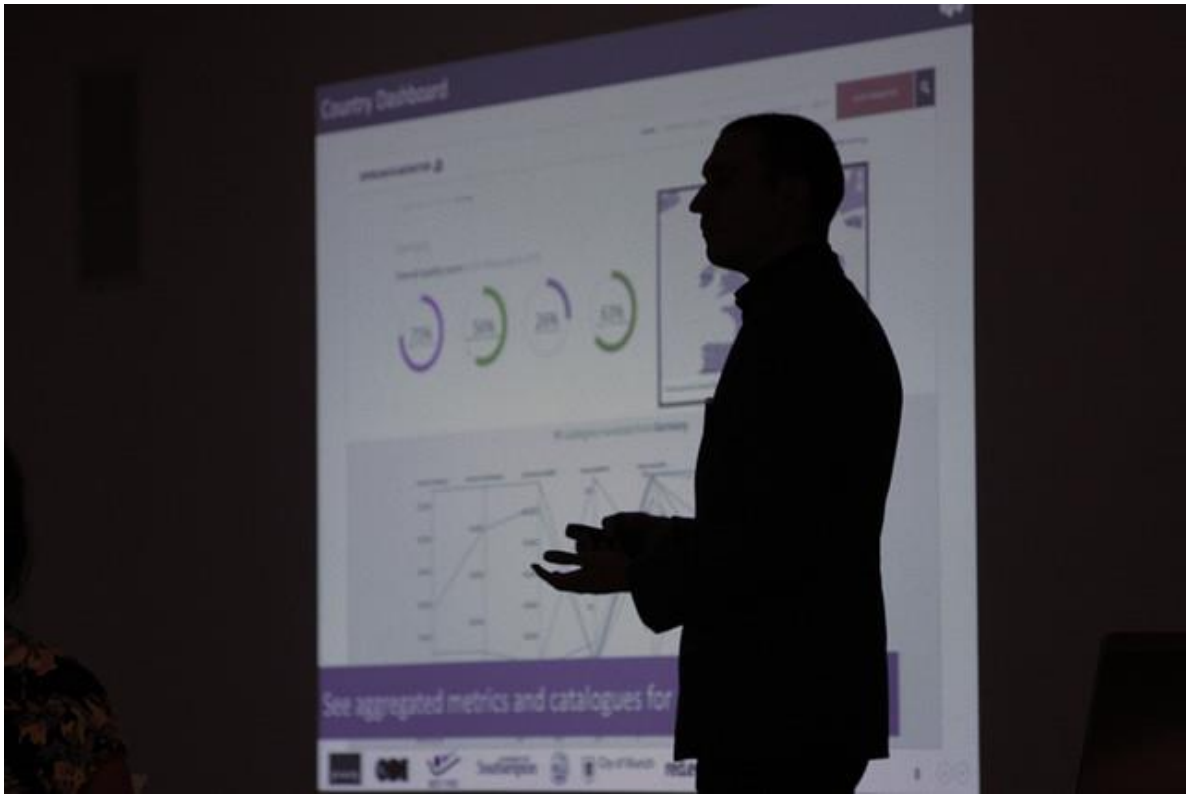

Figure 1.1: Bernhard Jäger (SYNYO) opens the ODM Symposium

At the outset of the OpenDataMonitor project we wanted to ensure that both the research undertaken and the platform developed met the needs of the various open data actors in the community. We were also committed to a targeted dissemination strategy that achieved maximum impact.

In addition to sharing our insights and findings, we were determined that the project not be developed in isolation, but formed part of a wider 'pipeline' of tools and resources to support the open data community. Creating a product that would educate and inform users and continue to be resourced after project completion was a significant component of our exploitation and sustainability strategy. In short, we wanted to create a sustainable legacy.

2 SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

On October 5th 2015 the Open Data Institute (ODI) hosted the OpenDataMonitor (ODM) Symposium and convened open data publishers, policy owners, academics and researchers, data-driven start-ups and SMEs and citizens to share insights from the project and celebrate our success. Through expert presentations, flash talks and group discussions, the symposium shared findings and insights from the ODM project and explored topics including:

- What is OpenDataMonitor and what have we learnt?
- How can we measure the quality and quantity of open data?
- What tools, platforms and services help open data professionals understand more about how the landscape is developing?
- How can we use this research and findings to shape improvements to data quality and quantity?
- How can we take this work forward after the project is complete?

The full agenda of the event can be found in the appendix of this report.

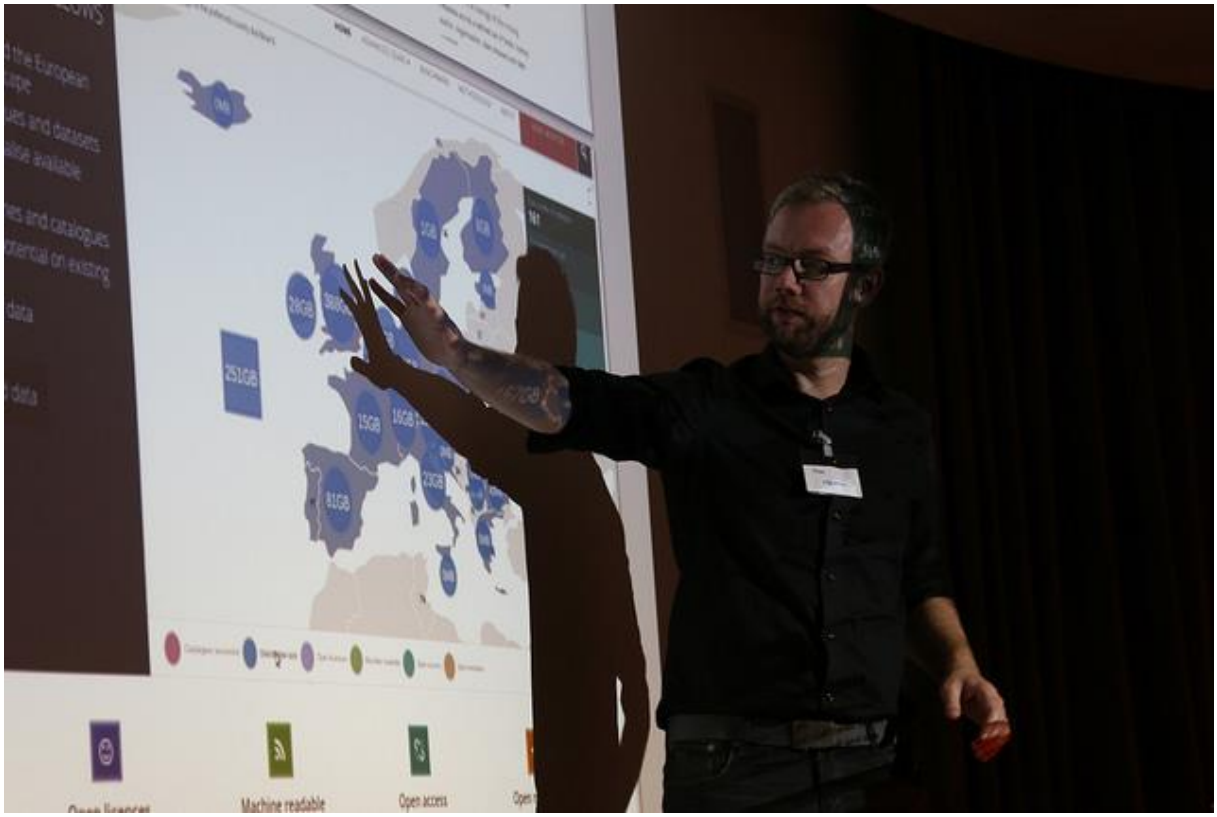

Figure 2.1: Tom Heath (ODI) presenting our OpenDataMonitor metrics

3 SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS AND ATTENDEES

To lead and steer these topics of discussion and reflect on the use of open data in a number of sectors and industries, the ODI produced a stimulating agenda and invited speakers from the ODM's external expert and advisory board (EEAB) and external open data experts. These speakers accompanied our own ODM consortium partners to present to the assembled group. ODM symposium speakers included:

- Ben Unsworth, Socrata (SME, industry expert, member of the ODM EEAB)
- Clifford McDowell, Doorda (start-up, industry expert)
- Jamie Whyte, Trafford City Council (public sector, data developer, data visualisation)
- Anneza Pitsalis, ODI (node network)
- Orsola De Marco, ODI (start-ups)
- Dr Tom Heath, ODM consortium
- Dr Elena Simperl, ODM consortium
- Bernhard Jäger, ODM consortium

Tim Davies (Open Data Research Network alumni and expert researcher was also an invited speaker but had to send his apologies on the day).

Figure 3.1: A captivated audience tweet about the event

All ODM consortium partners were present with the exception of MUNICH and ATHENA. To provide additional support for technical questions developers of ATHENA and SYNYO were available for a live 'technical chat' in the form of a collaborative, open google document where attendees could pose questions to our technical team.

Over 50 attendees attended the symposium including: policy makers and public sector representatives, both at a national and local level (Government Digital Services (GDS), National Audit Office (NAO), Surrey County Council), open data portal owners (Data.gov.uk), researchers and academics, start-ups and SMEs (Demand Logic, Spend Network), developers and open data consultants and enthusiasts also joined us on the day.

4 EVENT PROCEEDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Amanda Smith of the ODI chaired the event and our speakers created a stimulating dialogue. Bernhard Jäger from SYNYO opened the symposium, setting the scene and explaining the challenges in measuring and monitoring open data catalogues. Bernhard gave detailed explanations, accompanied by polished demonstrations to highlight all of the platform's functionality to the audience.

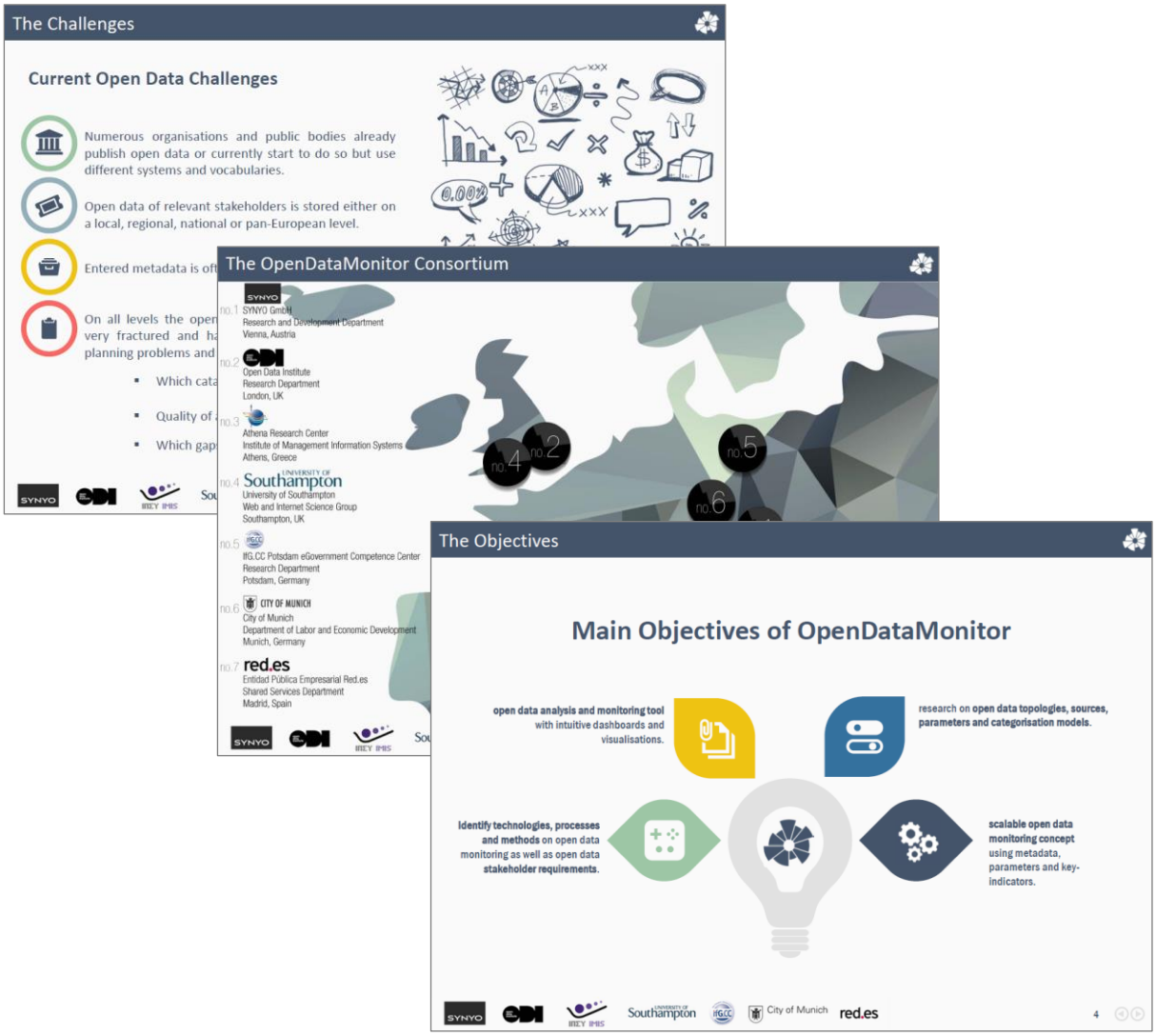

Figure 4.1: Presentation of challenges and objectives of ODM

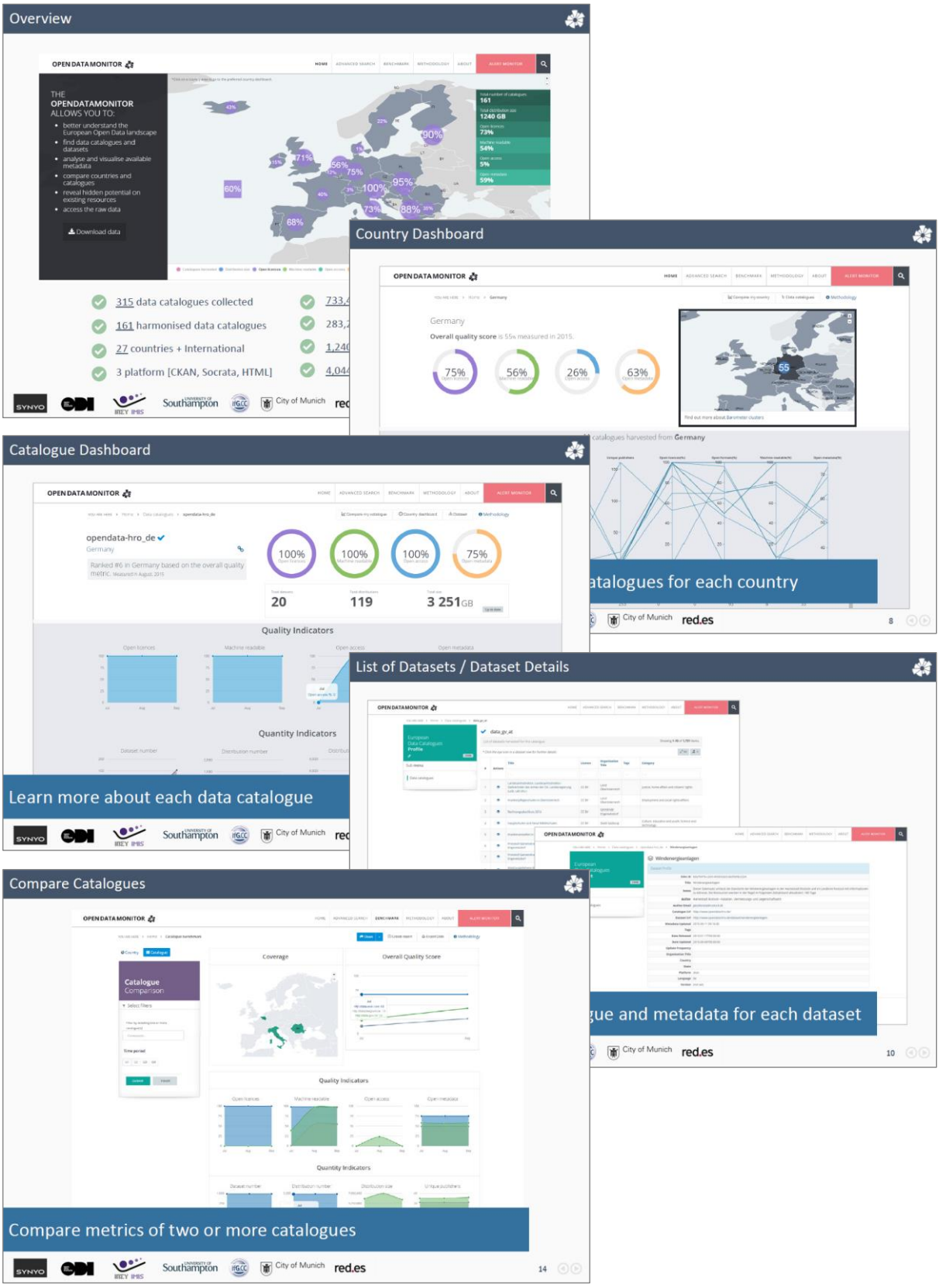

Figure 4.2: Opening slides to explain and demonstrate the ODM platform.

Tom Heath (ODI) followed Bernhard, presenting the metrics adopted in the platform. Tom demonstrated the approach taken to analyse open data both in terms of quality and quantity and outlined some of the limitations and future possibilities. We followed this with a Q&A panel with members from the consortium and a lively discussion about the concepts tackled in the project.

Figure 4.3: Bernhard Jäger (SYNYO) and Sirko Hunnius (IFG.CC) take questions from the audience

External speakers were also invited to discuss how open data is being adopted by start-ups, ODI nodes around the world, start-ups (Doorda), industry (Socrata) and local public sector (Trafford Council). We collected feedback from attendees using feedback forms and through post-event networking.

"Thank you for inviting me - it was a fabulous, insightful, engaging event. Make sure you invite me to the next one!" - ***Antonio Acuna, Head of Data.gov.uk***

"Great event, thank you!" - ***Chris Elsmore, Demand Logic***

"Thank you for bringing everyone together to discuss the challenges and connect policy to real life examples" - ***Rajesh Bhardwaj, open data technologist***

5 NEXT STEPS AND CONCLUSION

One of the key themes discussed was next steps for this work, a session led by Elena Simperl (Southampton University). In her discussion and closing comments, Elena framed ODM as a critical component of on-going and future open data landscaping.

Elena clarified that the project has harvested, integrated, and analysed metadata from 161 catalogues, which are available via an API and for download (CC BY 4.0). Elena highlighted proactive ways in which the community could continue to support ODM, one such example being, using the alert monitor to check for gaps in metadata and update their original data to improve the underlying quality.

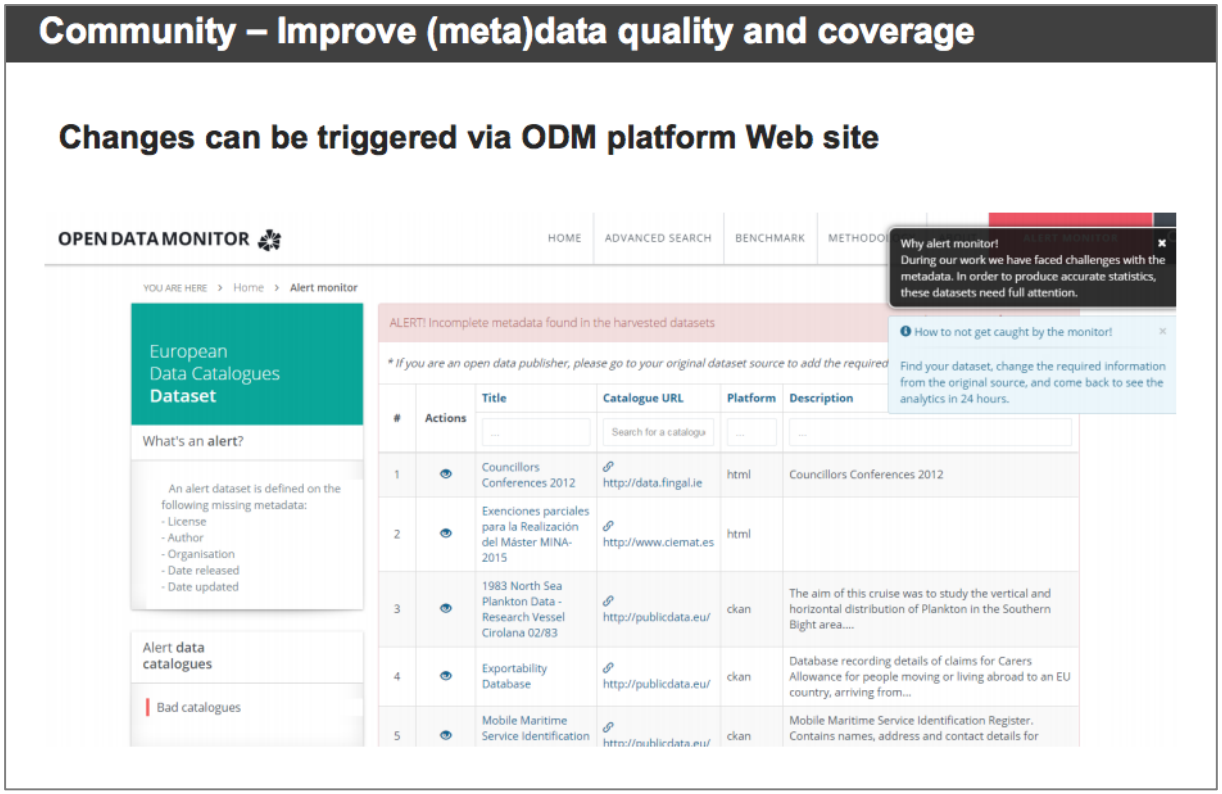

Figure 5.1: Elena Simperl's call to the community to use ODM functionality to improve the quality of their data.

Elena asked the community to put the data to work and recommended combining ODM with other data sets and methodologies, ensuring that ODM is cited when such results are published. ODM has adopted an open-source strategy throughout the project, and the backend is available as open

source as well as the metadata integration, encouraging the community to build on the ODM research and development we have delivered.

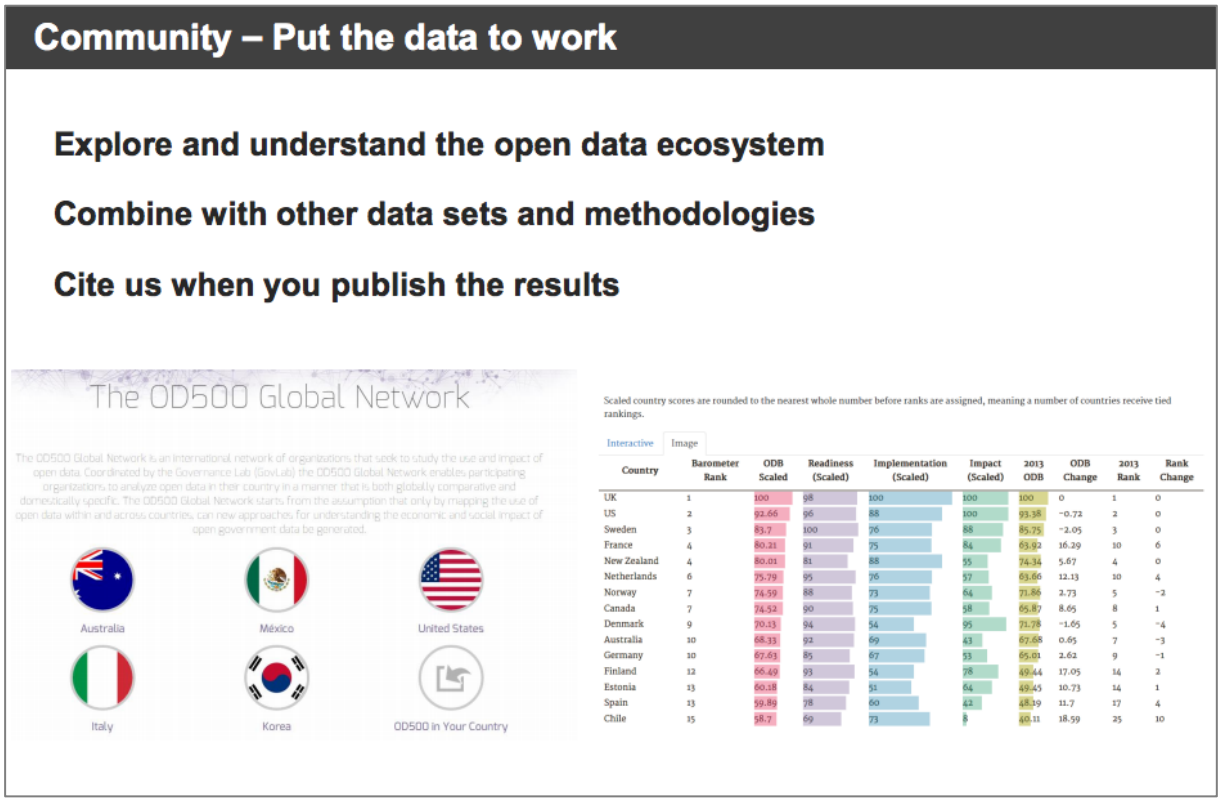

Figure 5.2: Elena Simperl recommended combining ODM with other open data research to ensure the project's outputs are reused.

In summary, we demonstrated and agreed that ODM is a valuable tool for researchers, open data infrastructure, technology and platform providers, data owners and policy makers. We communicated a clear call to action; researchers were encouraged to use the data, to validate and enhance new metrics and to help with technology. Data owners were encouraged to help improve their metadata, increase the catalogue coverage, provide feedback on the metrics and add context, qualitative data and success stories. We requested that open data infrastructure providers use the technology and work with us to develop data quality assessment methods. Finally, we asked that policy makers use the dashboard and give us feedback on new features.

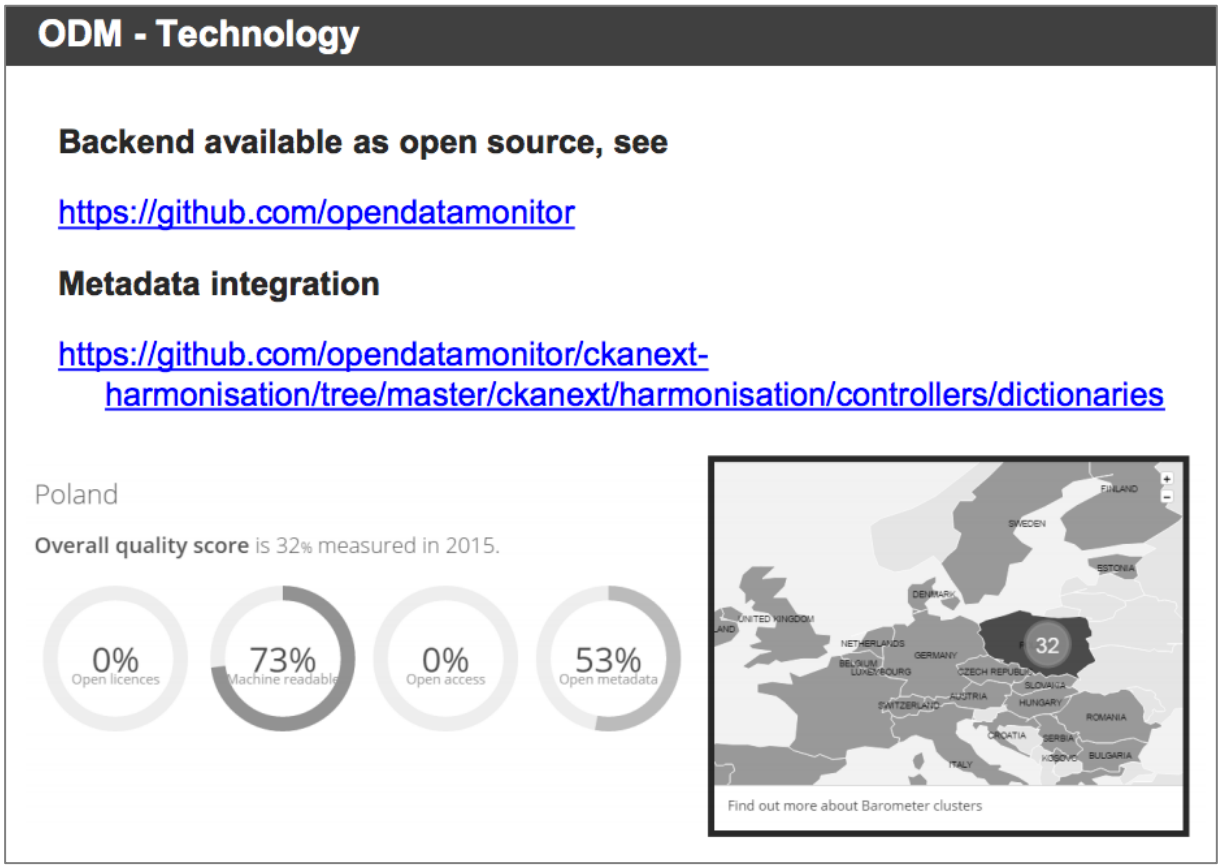

Figure 5.3: Elena Simperl also demonstrated how the developer and tech community can get involved with ODM

To conclude, ODM has significant potential to both work alongside and support other open data tools, and to be further developed (with the support of the community) to include new catalogues from Europe and beyond. With a clear appetite from the community and direction of travel, conversations at the ODM final project review will understand the logistics around continuation of work.

The discussions and topics raised at the ODM Symposium demonstrated a strong desire from the community to develop and build upon the platform. A significant objective of the ODM final project review will be to understand the logistics involved in satisfying this.

APPENDIX A

Table 1: Key figures from the ODM symposium

Number of invitations sent out	Over 300 bespoke invitations, plus online and offline methods for dissemination.
Methods for disseminating the invitation	Eventbrite, Twitter, LinkedIn, newsletters, targeted marketing at academic, research and tech groups,
Number of attendees	56 external + 15 ODI/partners
Tweets of the event	See full storify report: https://storify.com/ayymanduh/opendatamonitor-symposium
Number of speakers	10

APPENDIX B

ODM Symposium Agenda

12:45–13:00 | **Registration, networking and refreshments**
13:00–13:10 | **Welcome opening**
Amanda Smith, ODI
13:10–13:25 | **Introduction to OpenDataMonitor**
Bernhard Jäger, SYNYO
13:25–13:45 | **Designing metrics to monitor open data and early insights from ODM**
Tom Heath, ODI
13:45–13:55 | **OpenDataMonitor Q&A**
13:55–14:10 | **The open data startups story: from UK to Europe**
Orsola De Marco, ODI
14:10–14:25 | **Open data activity across the world: insights from ODI Nodes**
Anneza Pitsialis
14:25–14:40 | **Creating a business with open data**
Clifford McDowell
14:40–15:00 | **Visualising local open data**
Jamie Whyte
15:00–15:20 | **How does Socrata work with its customers to boost open data's quality and quantity?**
Ben Unsworth
15:20–15:40 | **What next? Turning open data measurement into action**
Tim Davies
15:40–16:00 | **Next steps for ODM and wrap-up**
Elena Simperl - University of Southampton
16:00 | **Close**
Amanda Smith, ODI

Networking drinks and canapés to follow with a demo café to explore OpenDataMonitor