

# An international (meta-) data platform to increase the added value of data and to combat fake news



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Statistical Office FSO

Swiss Confederation

2

## Where we want to get

Imagine you ask an AI chatbot about health data in two countries and you are sure that you will get the right answer because it has access to a platform where the data sets are described.

«Good data», which is representative, comparable, harmonized, interoperable, and subject to ethical principles, provides added value for societies and helps them in fact-checking and countering fake news. Governments have the means to publish «good data» in such a way that it is visible and, in this way, promote its reuse. A global platform could link this «good data» together and would be able to tell you who

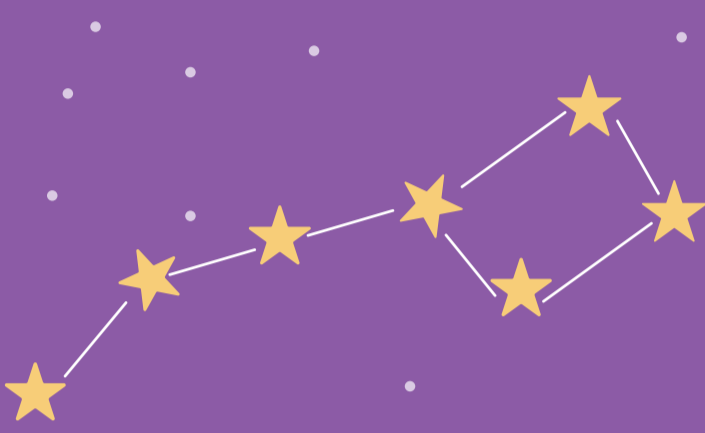
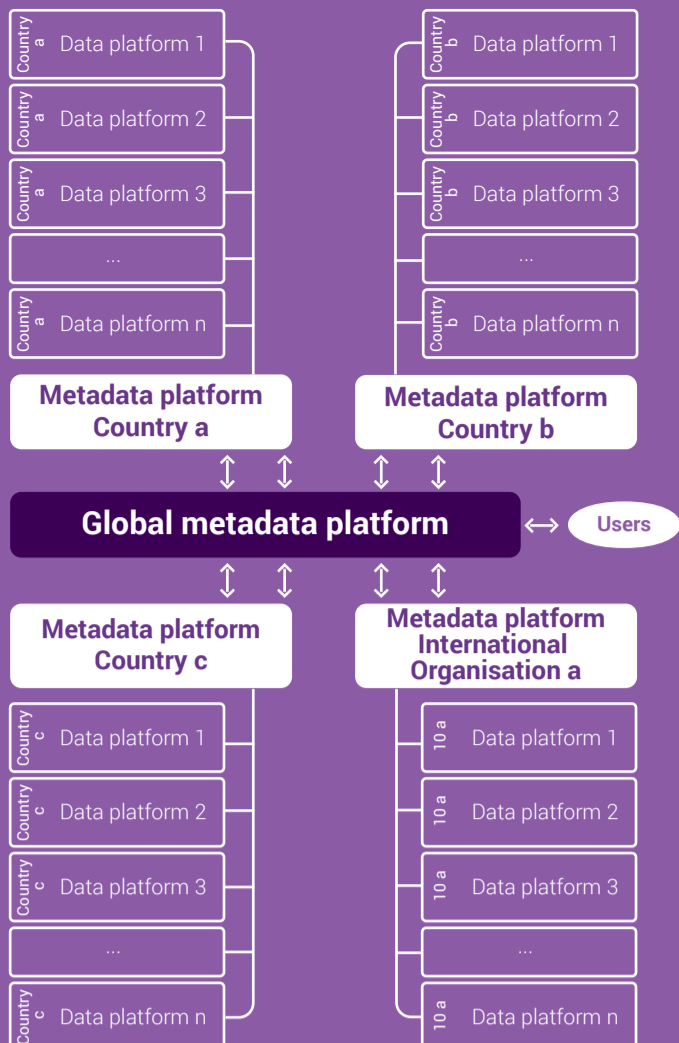
has which data sets, how good the quality is, how often they are collected, whether they are representative. If they are open government data, you can access it directly via an API, otherwise the platform would contain information on where you can request access and, if applicable, who is allowed to link it with other data.

This would help preventing the «unconscious» production of fake news. To foster «good use» of «good data», measures to increase data literacy of data users, particularly journalists, should also be foreseen.

1

## Where we are now

Imagine you are looking for health data from a given country and want to compare it with health data from another country. Today, it takes a long search in the countries, at international organizations, etc. to find this data. AI machines already compile such data in a very short time, but they collect the information from any text sources of the world wide web. Moreover, data so far mostly exists in separated areas, in so-called silos. The data is often collected or gathered for a specific purpose. It can often only be used for this purpose.

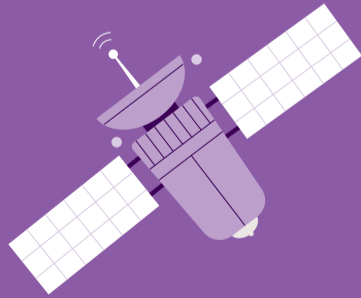


## Goals of the international (meta-) data platform

- Make «good data» visible;
- Bring together existing national (meta-) data platforms and those of international organizations;
- Increase transparency and enable more evidence-based policy-making;
- Enable the re-use of data by governments, science and all other actors.

## Mechanism

- Data on the various national platforms and from international organisations is made visible through a country's or international organisation's metadata platform. The data itself remains on its own platform. If the metadata platforms are harmonized, then a global platform can connect to all these platforms. Thus, all (good) data sets could be made visible in a global platform. The global platform would ideally be built in a manner that does not modify data ownership and quality assurance responsibilities, but creates benefits and synergies for all participating data owners. Attention has also to be paid to the quality of data and the protection of individuals' privacy.



## Venue

Geneva is the ideal place to build this platform. Many UN data producers are based in Geneva. Moreover, Switzerland is currently setting up its own national data platform (I14Y), which means that know-how can be easily transferred.

## Contact

Ambassador Benjamin Rothen,  
Swiss Federal Statistical Office,  
Benjamin.Rothen@bfs.admin.ch

