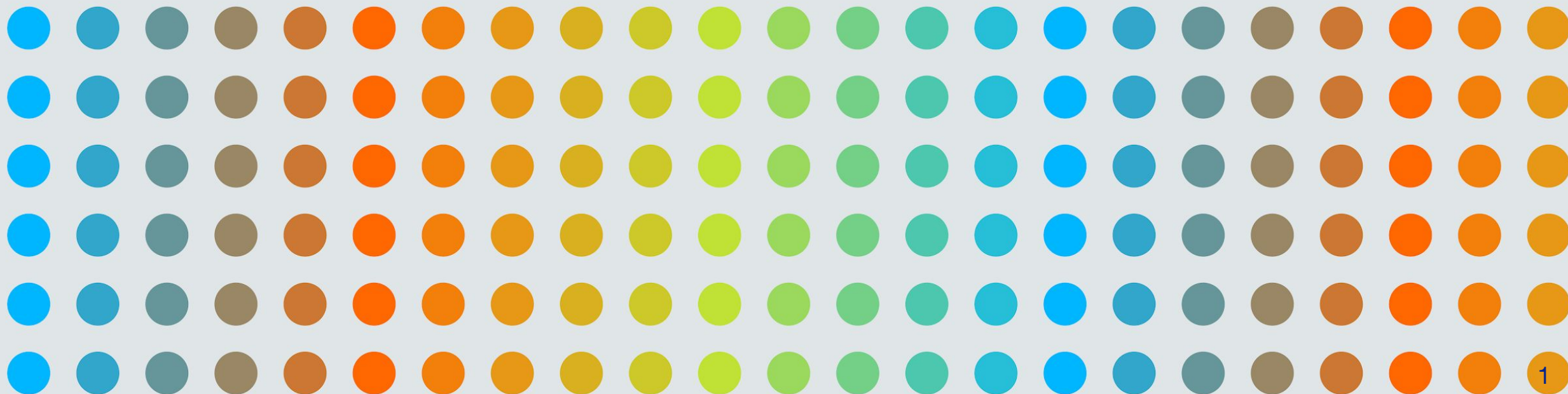




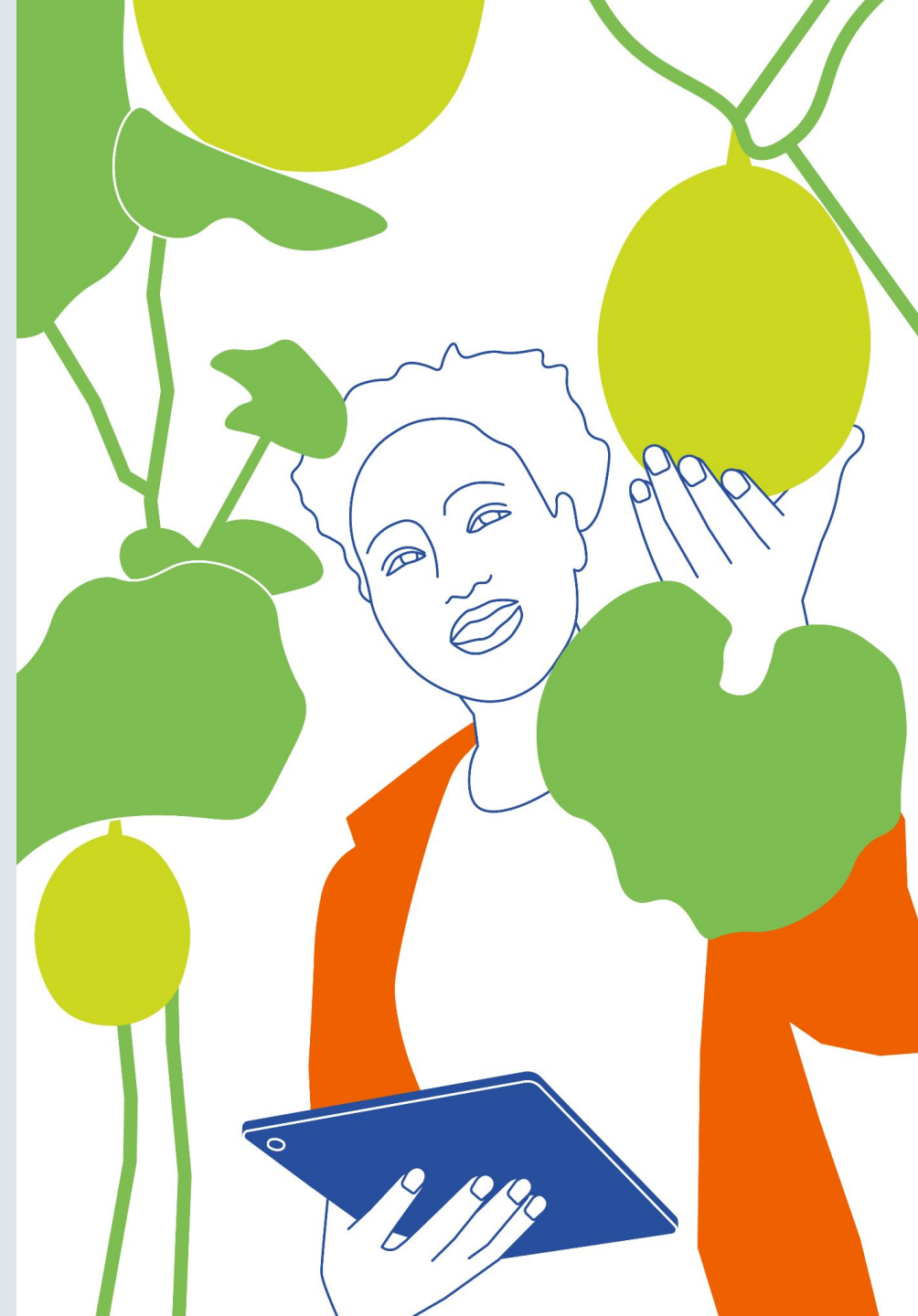
Volunteering Data Standards Working Group

4 March 2026



Contents

1. Welcome & project overview - Andrew (10m)
2. Data Model Update - Matthieu (10m)
3. Describing the value of volunteering - All (35m)
4. Next Steps - Andrew (5m)



Welcome

Notices

This meeting will be recorded.

Chatham House Rule - Please don't Share AI summaries that identify individuals or organisations.

Inform the chair or secretariat if you think there is a risk of:

1. Conflicts of Interest: A personal or professional interest that might have undue or improper influence on a decision made in this meeting.
2. Engaging in anti-competitive activities: We must not discuss pricing, market sharing, or other matters that could be perceived to restrict competition.
3. Misuse of Intellectual Property: Concerns about how your contributions or ideas are being or could be used.

Working together

1. Every voice matters.
2. Please join the conversation, we don't want this to be one way.
3. If you're happy to, keep your camera on.
4. Please raise your hand if you want to come in, or drop your ideas in the chat.
5. Respect the diverse viewpoints in the room, assume positive intent and remain open to different perspectives and experiences.
6. We will be using Miro to support our discussions today.

Facilitation tools

We will use Miro today...

- Free, no sign up required, works in most browsers and most organisations.
- Big screen is better.
- We will walk you through the activities.

Today's link: https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVG3P3KQk=

Please introduce yourself on the board.

If you can't use Miro please contribute to discussions and share your thoughts in the meeting chat.

The miro board will be accessible after the meeting in 'View and Comment' mode.

Project Overview

Project Team



Funded by



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Sector technology partners



Introducing the ODI

Vision

A world where
data works for
everyone

Mission

An open,
trustworthy data
ecosystem

Research – working on applied research projects with a focus on data centric AI.

Public policy – Advising policy makers and building understanding of data policy around the world.

Training, Consultancy & Services – enabling organisations to understand how to make the most of their data, and embed best practices in their organisations.

Co-designing and stewarding modern, open, **data infrastructures**.

Engagement, convening and behaviour change – creating compelling content and narratives, and leveraging our global member network to embed ideas and novel ways of working with data.



**Sir Nigel
Shadbolt**

Executive
Chair and
Co-founder of
the ODI



**Sir Tim
Berners-Lee**

President and
Co-founder
of the ODI



Louise Burke
CEO

Why is ODI interested in volunteering?



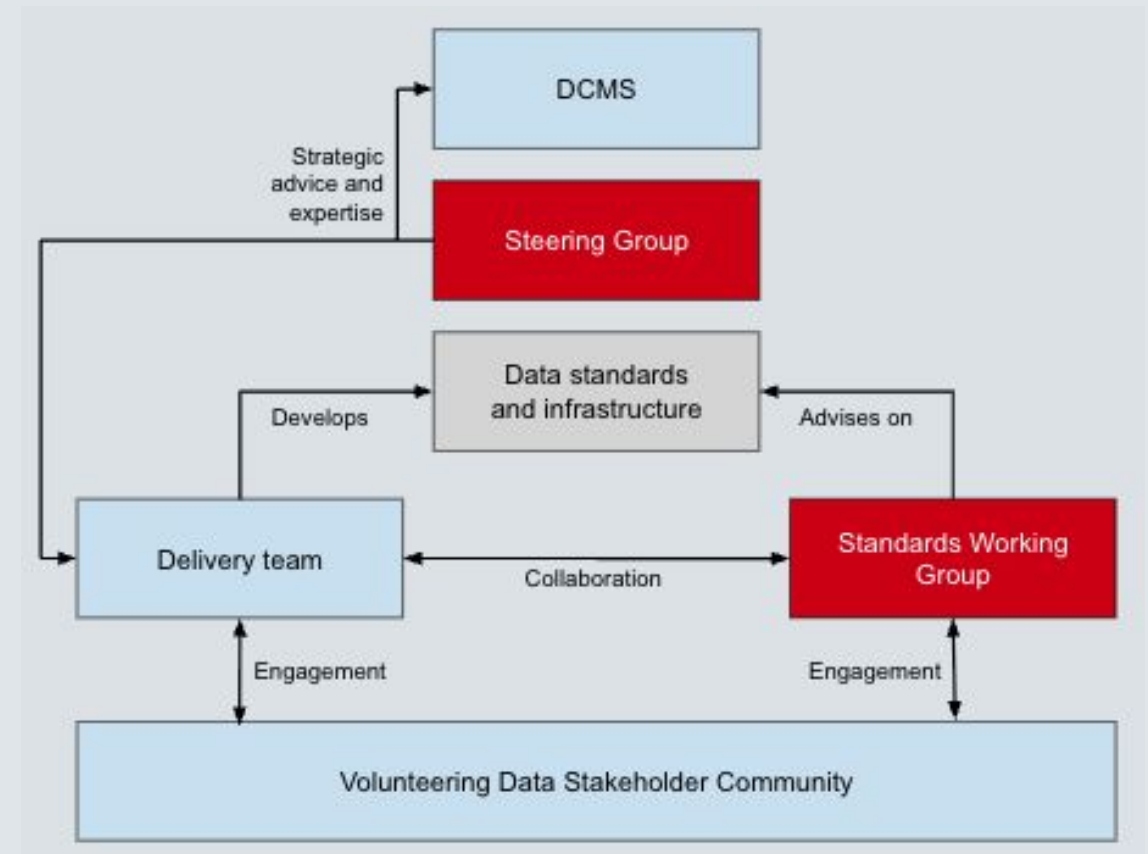
Image generated by Gemini

The Standards Working Group

A community of subject matter experts including: Thematic experts, data experts and software providers collaborating to agree standards.

Ensuring standards and infrastructure are developed that meet the needs of all stakeholders.

[Terms of Reference](#)



Timeline

Activity	Sept		Oct					Nov				Dec				Jan-Mar 26			
	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	JAN	FEB	MAR
Kick Off																			
Stage 1 Discovery																			
Stage 1 Alpha																			
Stage 2 Beta (TBC)																			

Christmas period. ODI office closed 24 Dec - 1 Jan

Real world implementations



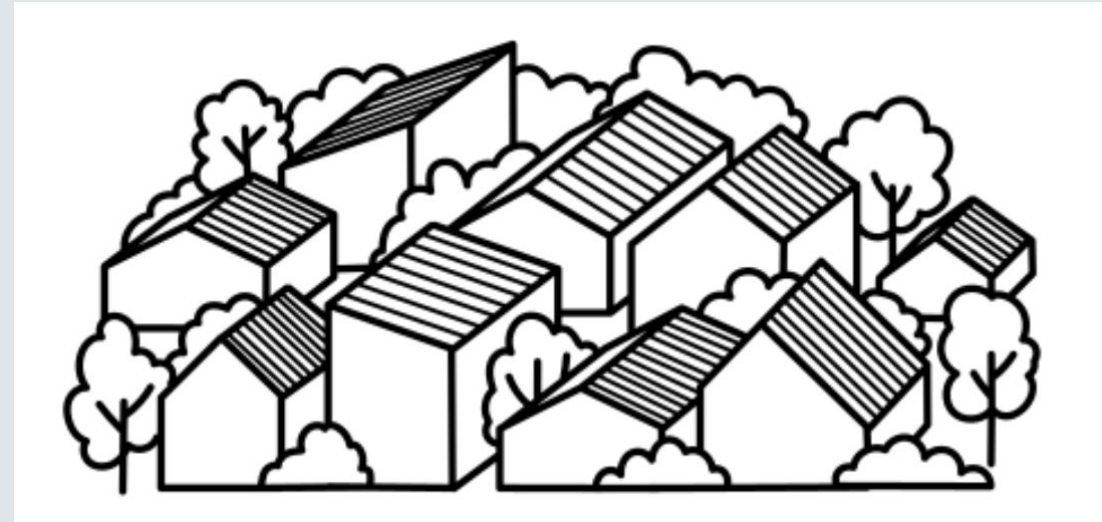
National interoperability pilot: The Big Help Out

1. Test aggregation, search, and redirection across multiple providers.
2. Refine the data model, API, and documentation.
3. Practical insight into adoption drivers for large-scale initiatives.
4. Evidence of interoperability at a national scale: opportunities providers publish once and gain additional visibility through the campaign.



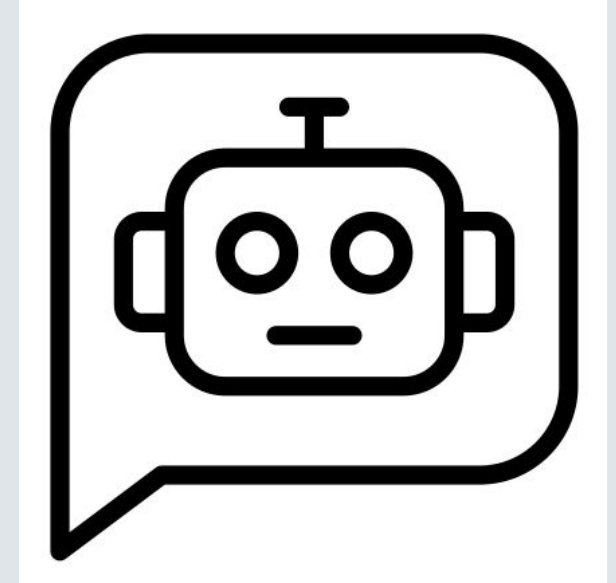
Smaller, grassroots organisations onboarding and tooling

1. Clear insight into the tooling, guidance, and support required to enable grassroots adoption.
2. Evidence on whether the draft standard is usable in low-resource, low-digital-capacity settings.
3. Improvement to the 'data culture' across the volunteering sector, building capacity through accessible resources.



AI-readiness

1. Evidence of whether the draft standard and APIs are suitable for AI.
2. Identification of gaps or ambiguities that limit effective machine interpretation of volunteering data.
3. Recommendations to improve AI-readiness, including changes to API structure, metadata, and documentation.

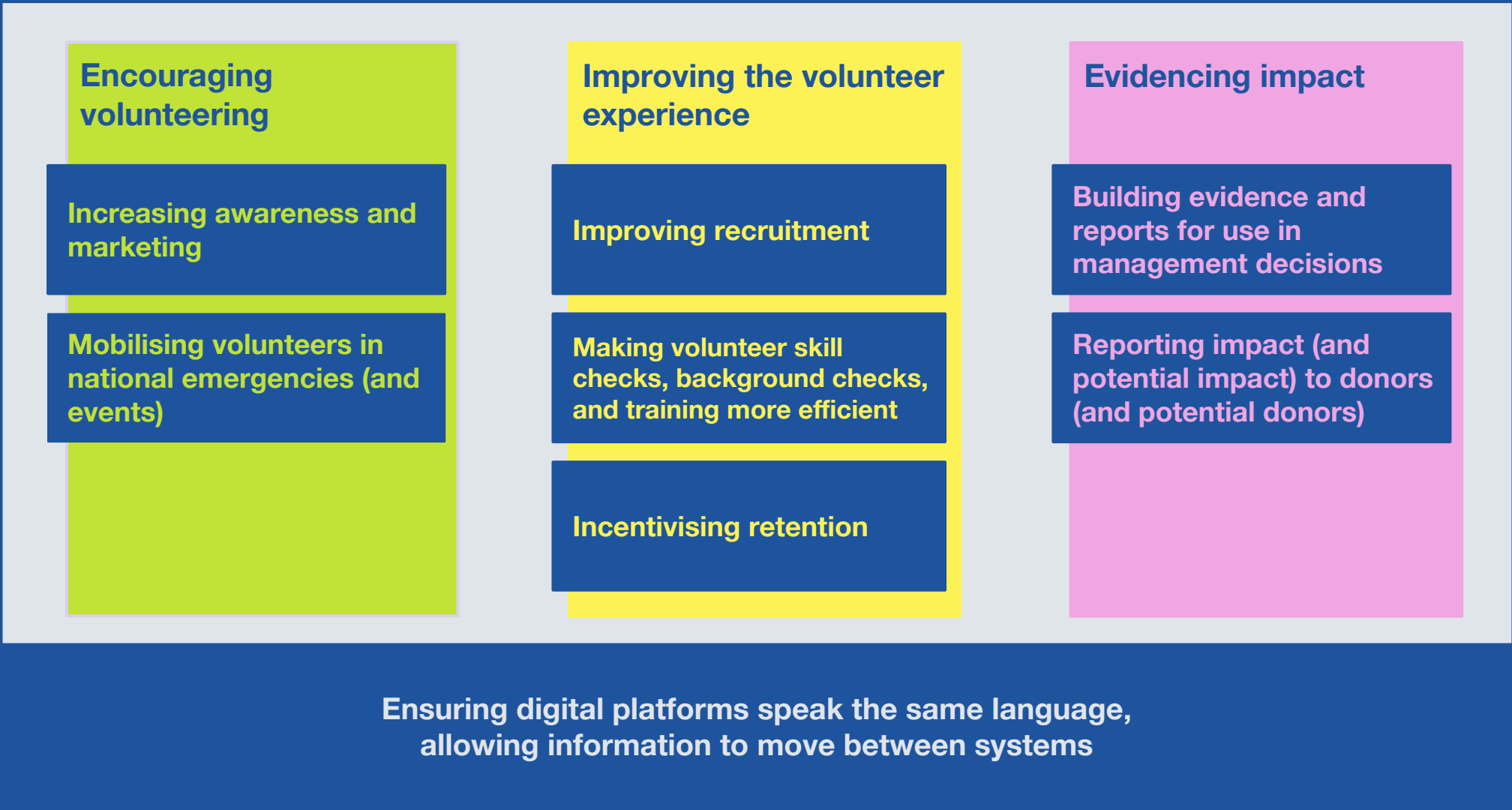


Data Model Update

Matthieu Bosquet

The value of volunteering

Use Cases



A VCSE Value Typology

- Monetary and cost-benefit analysis
- Recognition, reputation and appreciative value
- From a capitals perspective (social, human, infrastructure, natural etc)
- Improved governance and culture
- Community assets and ownership
- Value chain perspectives
- Personal value and meeting intrinsic objectives
- Regenerative value
- Policy influence and outcome

A VCSE Value Typology—developed by Dr Amy Burnett as part of a British Academy Policy Innovation Fellowship, hosted by the Civil Society and Youth directorate at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (last updated 22.9.25)



Describing the value of volunteering

- What challenges do you face when trying to prove the value of volunteering?
- What questions do you aim to answer when considering the value of volunteering?
- What data points should we collect to measure the value of volunteering?
- What data is MOST important?

[https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVG3P3KQk=/
/](https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVG3P3KQk=/)



Next Steps

What's Next?

Key deliverables

- Finalise and publish the next version of the Volunteering and Social Action Ontology.
- Complete pilot projects
- Development of recommendations on next steps.

Meeting 6 (18/03/26)

This will be a retrospective, we will present the work of the working group and our achievements and seek your views on what went well, what didn't go well and your ideas for the future.

Resources

<https://standard.volunteeringdata.io>

- A public space for the standard
- Contribute your knowledge through discussions
- Raise ecosystem awareness of the working groups
- Facilitate more contributions and focused discussions
- Everyone's knowledge and expertise is welcome and needed

<https://api.volunteeringdata.io>

- Example implementation of standard
- API and sample data
- Example API Calls

Volunteering Data Model

[Use cases](#)[Hackathon](#)[Versions](#)[FAQ](#)

Volunteering and Social Action Ontology

The volunteering and social action ontology aims to standardise the representation of volunteering opportunities and volunteer-involving organisations so that data and associated tooling become reusable and can be shared across the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Standard data models designed to address the challenges faced by a sector are the base for information systems interoperability. Their adoption lowers both the cost and technical barrier for entry into a data ecosystem.

The adequacy of a standard model enables simple solutions to use cases that may otherwise be challenging to address.

Ultimately, information systems relying on adequate standards enable a diverse, equitable and inclusive data ecosystem allowing us to focus time and efforts on users and improving processes that directly address their needs.

Process

Standards must be grounded in practical knowledge and experience of the sector they're designed for. Subject Matter Experts (SME), that is, a diverse group of people with varied and extensive experience of the sector, are the first point of contact in any standardisation effort. SMEs shared knowledge constitutes the base and justification for every data modelling decision in a standard.

Following that principle, the volunteering and social action ontology is developed in the open with volunteering specialists, software providers, and data experts, bringing the necessary domain expertise to collaborate on the standardisation effort.



How to Contribute in GitHub

Please contribute to the [discussions](#) on the volunteering data model repository.

We have 8 categories for focused discussions on specific modeling and requirements topics:

- [Accessibility](#)
- [Data Governance](#)
- [Emergency Response](#)
- [Geographical Location](#)
- [Roles and Skills](#)
- [Value Mapping](#)
- [Volunteer Involving Organisation](#)
- [Volunteering Opportunities](#)

Also accessible from model.volunteeringdata.io

Thank you

www.theodi.org

- andrew.newman@theodi.org
- research@theodi.org

Open Data Institute

Kings Place
4th Floor
90 York Way
London N1 9AG
United Kingdom

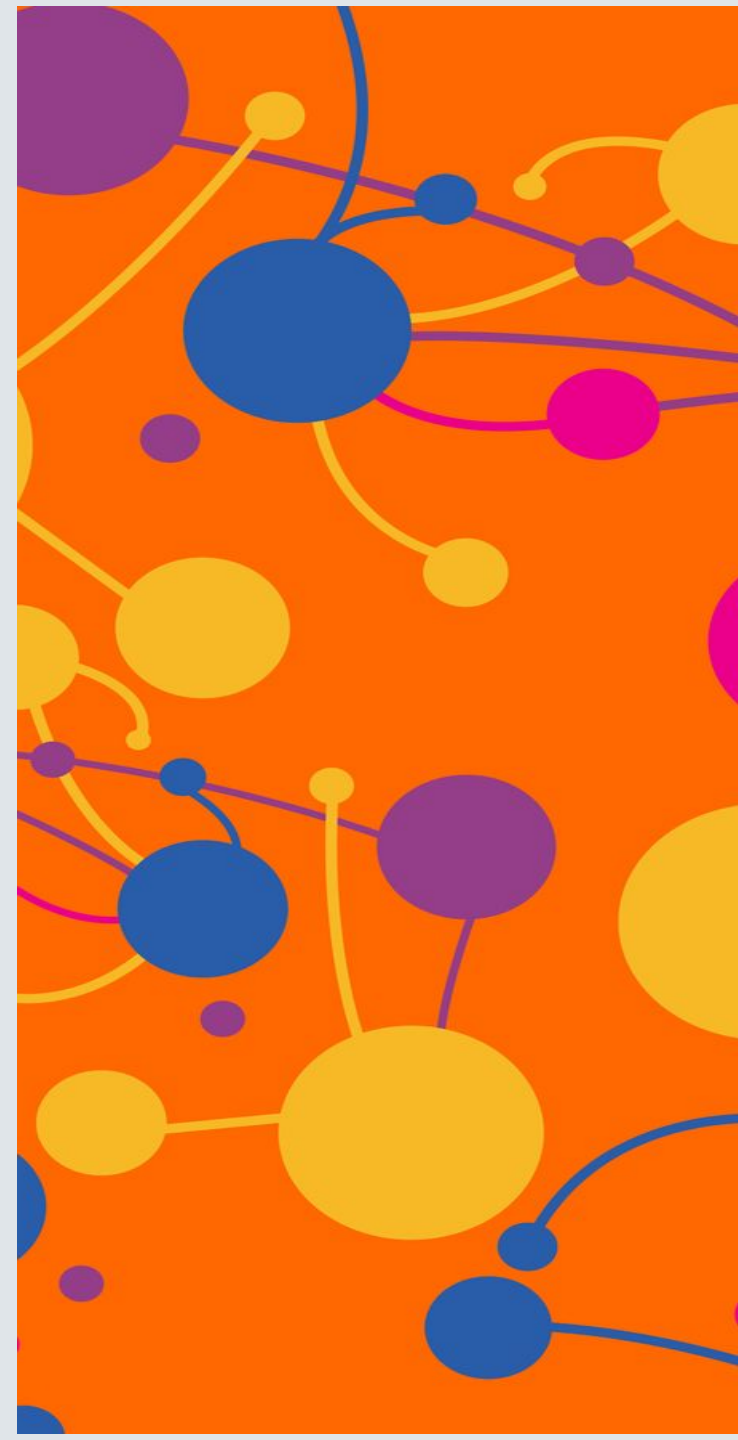
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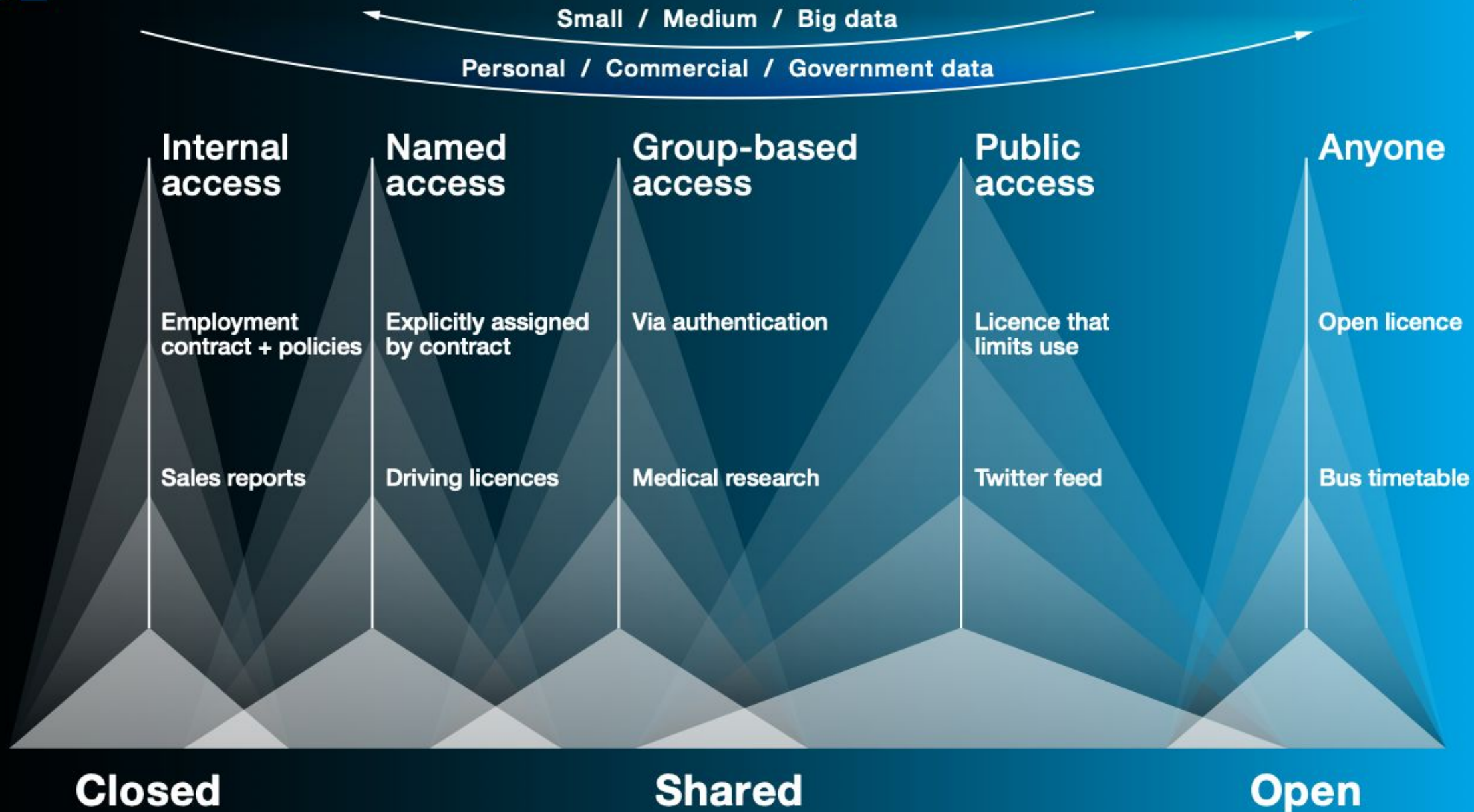
+44 (0)20 3598 9395

Additional Information

(not presented)

Open data is data
that anyone can
access, use or
share.





Data infrastructure

The data.

The policies and standards that define and control the data.

The technical infrastructure that provides access to the data.

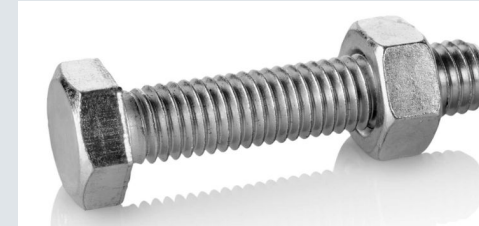
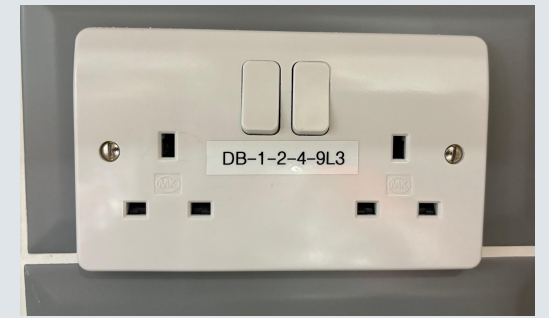
The organisations and people that contribute to, and steward, these things.

Open data standards

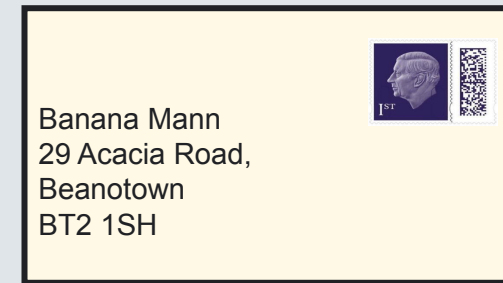
Standards are documented, reusable agreements that solve a specific set of problems or meet clearly defined needs.

An open standards are available for anyone to access, use and share, they are developed using open processes.

Open standards for data help us publish, access, share and use better quality data.



One metre is the length of the path travelled by light in vacuum during a time interval with duration of $1/299\,792\,458$ of a second (BIPM.ORG)



Banana Mann
29 Acacia Road,
Beanotown
BT2 1SH

Develop a modern, open, data infrastructure for volunteering to:



**Power
Innovation
& increase
impact**

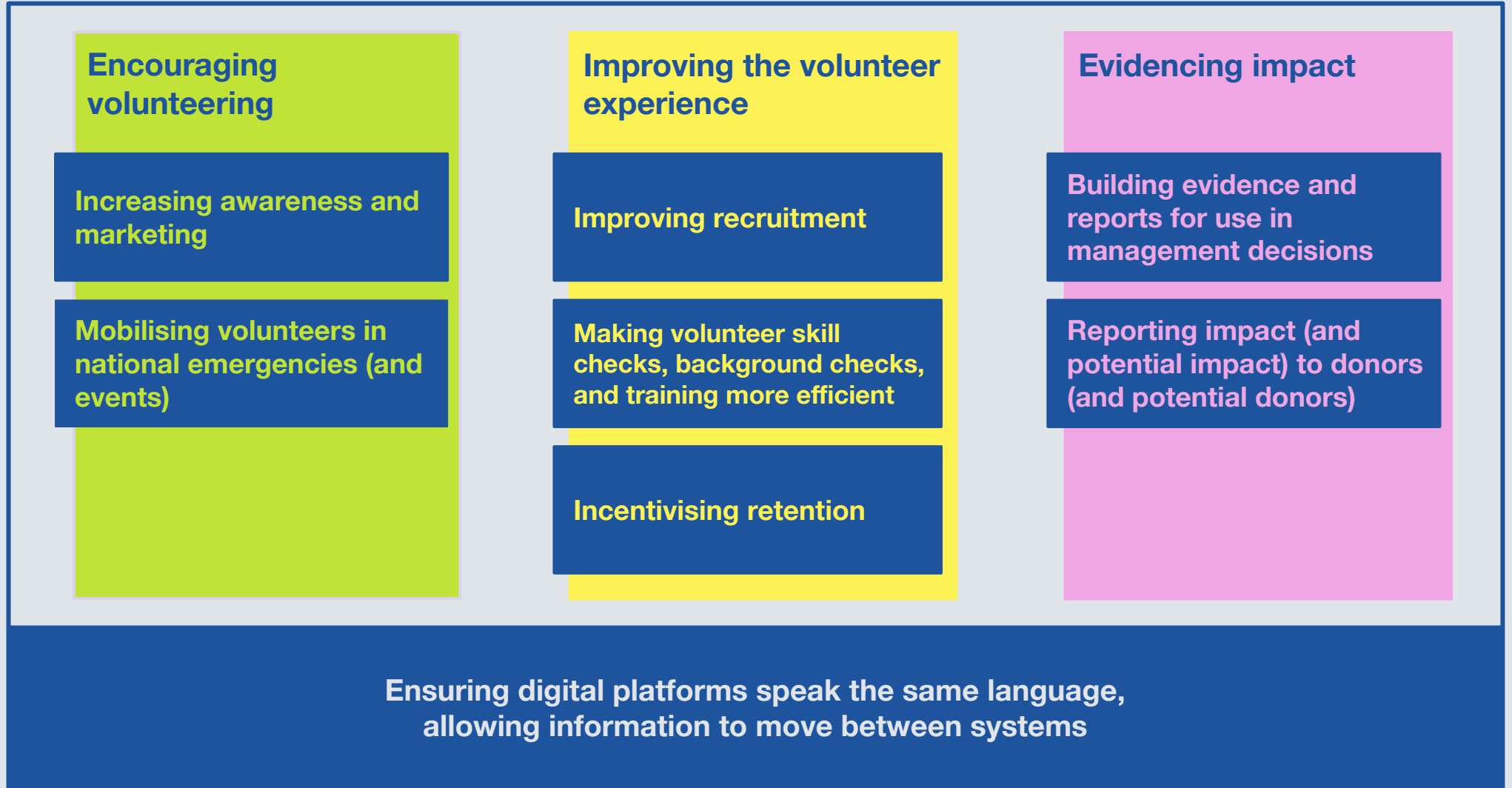


**Enable data
sharing**

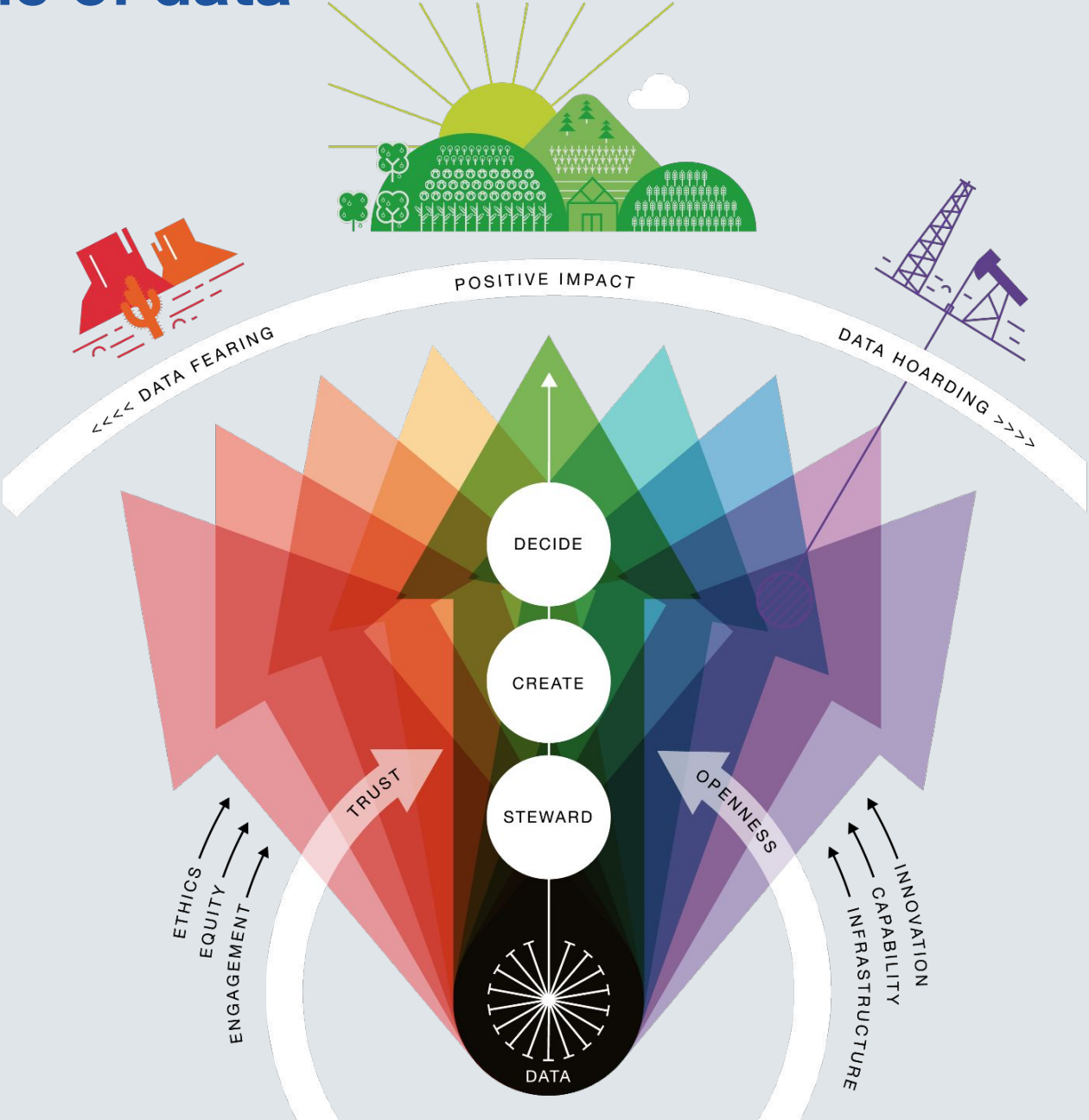


**Build a data
culture**

Use Cases



Describing the value of data



Describing the value of data

ODI Value of Data Canvas

	Data collection	Data uses	Benefits	Complementary assets, skills and datasets	Costs and risks	Data access model
Organisation (Know your data)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name the key data sources and datasets you want to assess. Are these datasets something that other organisations could also generate? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is your organisation currently using this data for? What other uses could this data have for your organisation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What benefits is this data currently giving to your organisation? What benefits or efficiencies could your organisation potentially get if access to this data is increased? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What complementary assets or skills could your organisation invest in to increase the benefits it can obtain from this data? What complementary datasets could increase the value of this data? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the costs associated with the current and potential use cases of this data? What risks does the collection, storage and use of this data create? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What parts of the data should your organisation share? How should your organisation share the data?
Ecosystem (Know your ecosystem)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What actors could potentially be interested in collecting or accessing this data? What actors, if any, could be in a position to produce this data by themselves? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What uses could other actors give to this data if access to it was increased? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What benefits or efficiencies could be gained within the ecosystem if more actors were granted access to this data? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What complementary assets, skills and datasets are present within the ecosystem? Who has access to these assets, skills and datasets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What costs would your organisation or other organisations have to incur to increase access to this data? What risks could arise as a consequence of increasing access to this data? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who should access the data? What kind of access could be granted to other actors?
Incentives and value flows (Understand how value flows)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What would other actors need to invest in to get this data or similar data elsewhere? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is keeping your organisation from increasing access to data that could potentially be useful for other actors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can you quantify the benefits of using and sharing this data? How are the benefits distributed across different actors of the ecosystem? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can the value of complementary assets, skills and datasets be quantified? What are the factors that catalyse or limit their development? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do the costs of using and increasing access to the data balance out with potential benefits? What actions can your organisation take to compensate for these costs and mitigate the risks? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What mechanisms can be put in place so that the benefits of increasing access can compensate the organisation sharing the data for the cost of doing so?