Exploring, monitoring and visualizing SDGs in Armenia

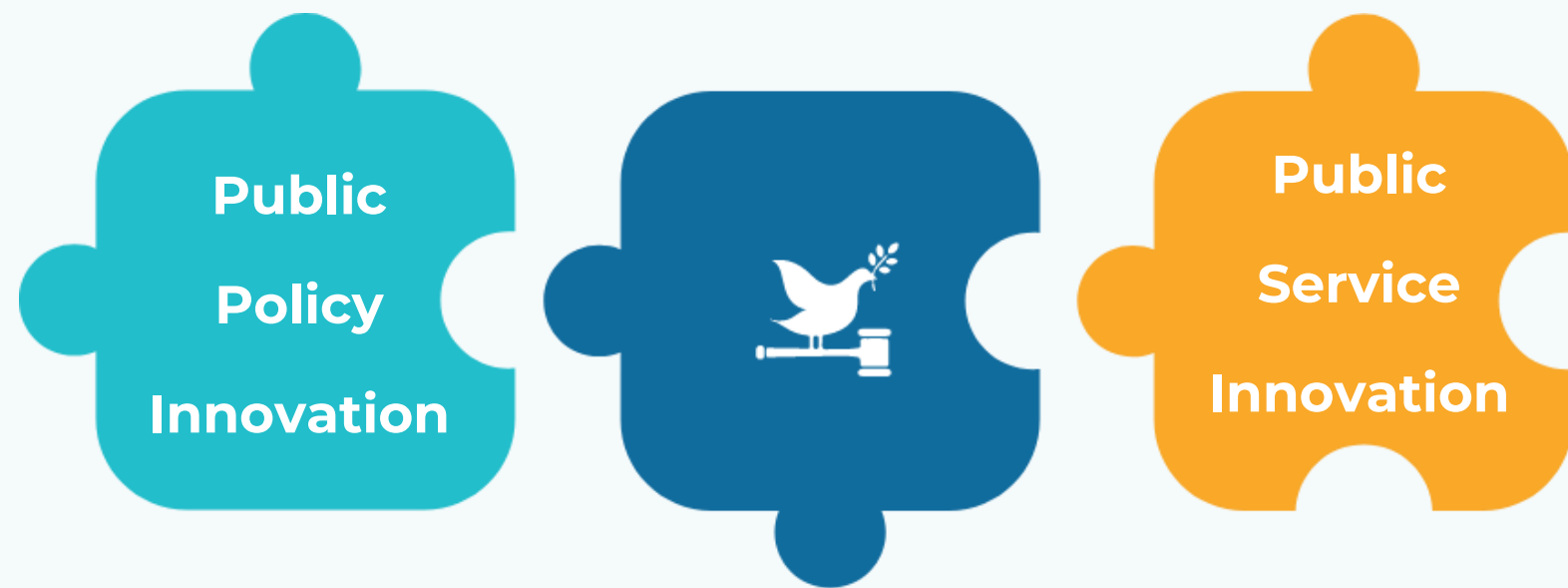**Elen Sahradyan, Public Policy Innovation Task Lead**

UNDP's Armenia National SDG Innovation Lab

Armenia National SDG Innovation Lab

Public Policy Innovation

Public Service Innovation

SDG Innovation Lab, a joint initiative of the Government of Armenia and the UNDP, is founded in 2017 to disrupt policy and decision-making practices in Armenia making them more evidence-based and impactful. We envision mainstreaming the culture of innovation and experimentation by looking for "out of the box" solutions, evidence, and disruptive technologies.

Data science   **Behavioral Science**   **Design Thinking**   **Alternative Scenario Development**

Sectors and partnerships

Environment

Entrepreneurship

Tax

Agriculture

Justice

Tourism

Health

Education & Employment
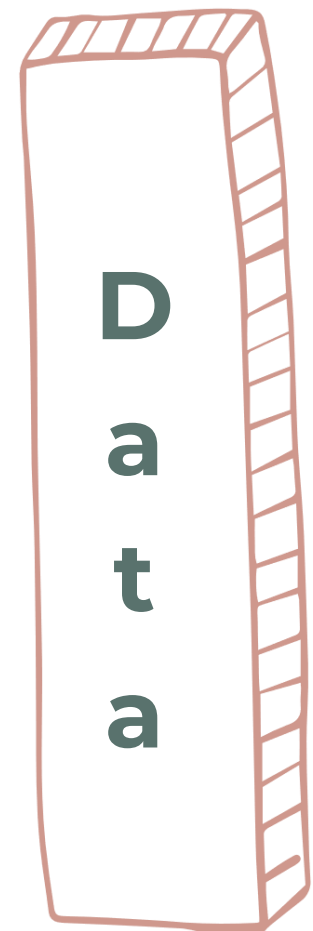
AI & Digitalization

Sectors

Partnerships

- BIT
- NESTA
- University of Podova
- Mannheim University
- Columbia University SIPA
- Zhongnan University of Economics and Law
- Oslo Governance Center
- Global Data Barometer
- Unleash
- Global Pulse
- Apolitical
- DeepPavlov

Innovation Lab in the institutional structure of SDGs implementation in Armenia

- Joint initiative of the Government of Armenia and the UNDP

- Close partnership with the Deputy Prime Minister's Office

- Member of the SDG 16 Task Force

- The only institution with a similar innovative initiative for evidence-based decision making, policy-making and service delivery in Armenia.

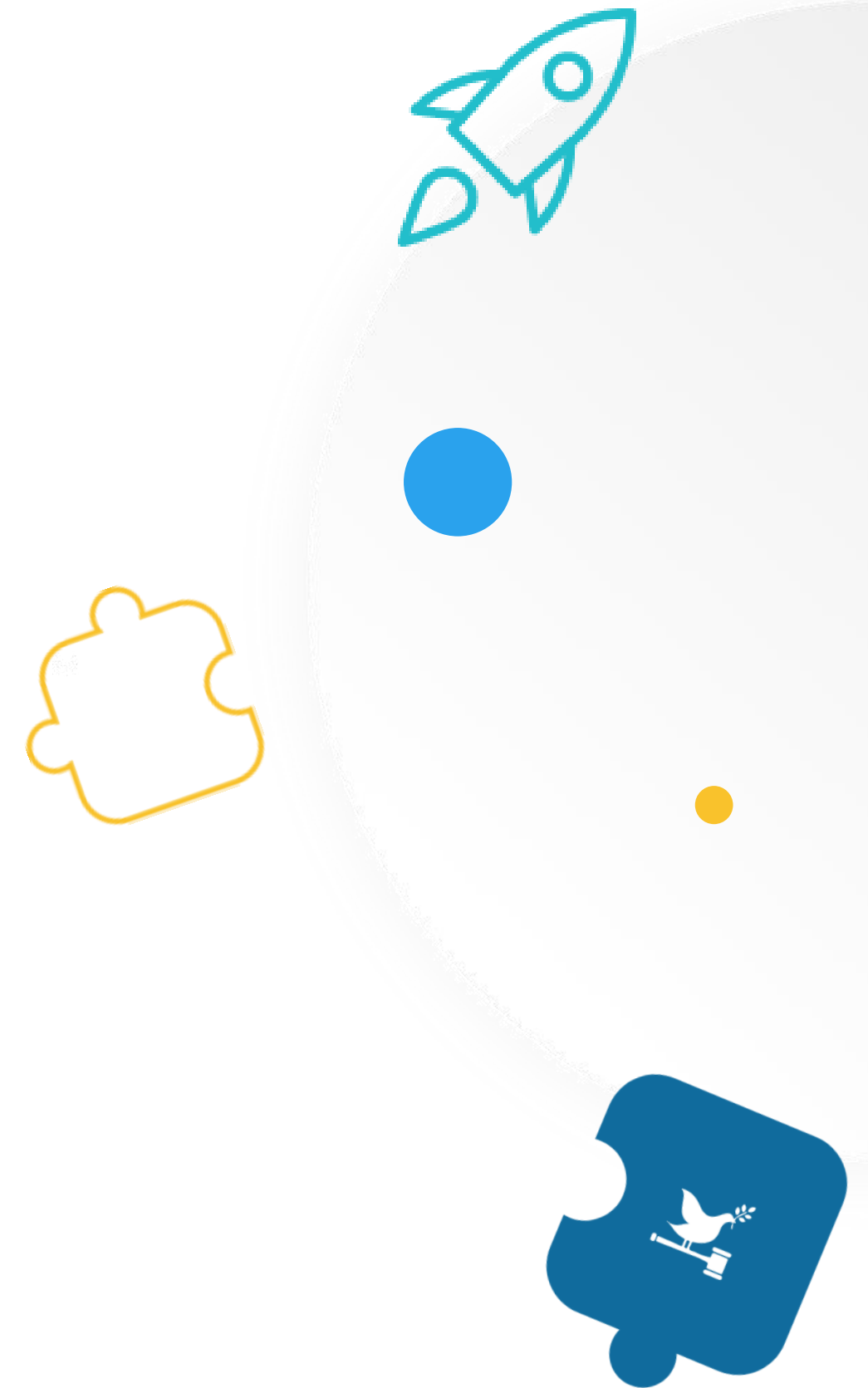# The use of big data and the development of real-time data repositories

Data

Publicly available data
- Social media
- Official Government websites
- Largest online travel platforms

Administrative data
- Government
- Other public institutions

SDG

SDG Monitor platform: overview

- Implemented together with the UNDP's "Rule of Law and SDG 16 in Armenia's Reform Agenda" project.

- User-friendly, AI powered, open-access interactive online data repository for real-time SDG progress monitoring in Armenia.

- Ownership of the process by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office.

- Over 10 public institutions in the project **Task Force,** partnership with **Oslo Governance Center** and **Global Data Barometer**.

- Data collection through conventional and non-conventional methods.

Innovation in data sources (Facebook and E-draft)

Innovation in data transfer channels

Data mapping

Mapping the data from conventional and non-conventional sources

Identification of innovative data collection methods and sources

Exploring alternative publicly available data sources and data collection methods

Prototyping new and efficient methods of data collection

Creating state-of-the-art machine learning algorithms, sustainable pipelines, identifying alternative data transfer channels (API)

Data collection
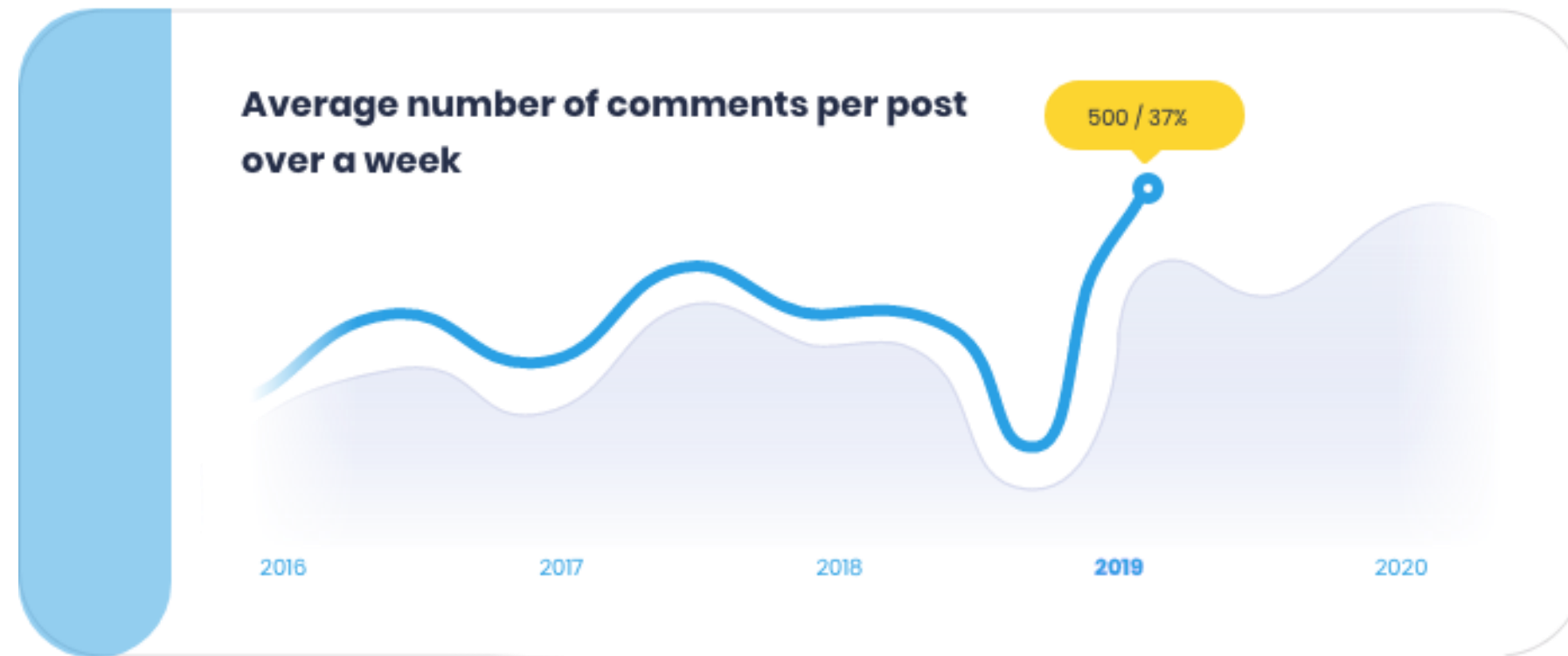
Collecting data from
a) conventional sources: 8 public institutions
b) non-conventional sources: Facebook and E-draft

Data analytics

Analyzing the data, extracting findings and insights

SDG Monitor platform design and development

Visualizing the collected data on the AI-powered, real-time, open-access online data repository

Innovative data collection

SDG 16.7.2

Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

Average number of comments per post over a week

500 / 37%

2016   2017   2018   **2019**   2020

- Daily, weekly, monthly and annual seasonality and trends for posts, comments, reactions and specific topics;

- Time-series analysis of the number of posts, comments, reactions, shares, etc.;

- Time-series analysis of the number of legal acts, likes, dislikes, views, comments, amendments/incorporations.
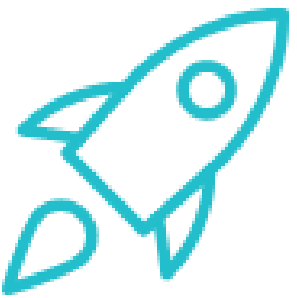
Social media (Facebook) - official FB pages of institutions, current and former officials

E-draft - official Government website for the publication of draft legal acts

What's next?

Scale-up in scope: SDG 16 + framework, then all SDGs

Scale-up in geography: spreading to new countries

Scale-up in innovation: innovative data collection for new indicators, innovative methodologies and tools available for other countries

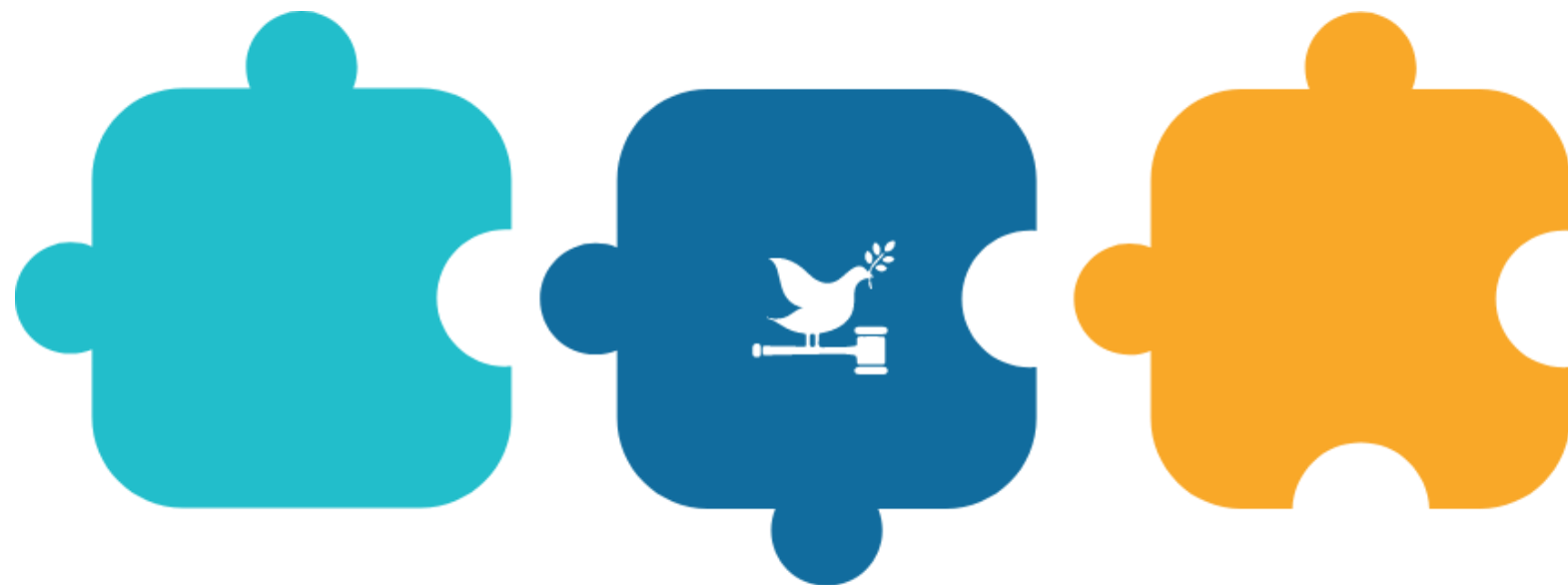More data sources and new data transfer channels

COVID-19 dashboard on the impact of the crisis on SDG, target and indicator levels

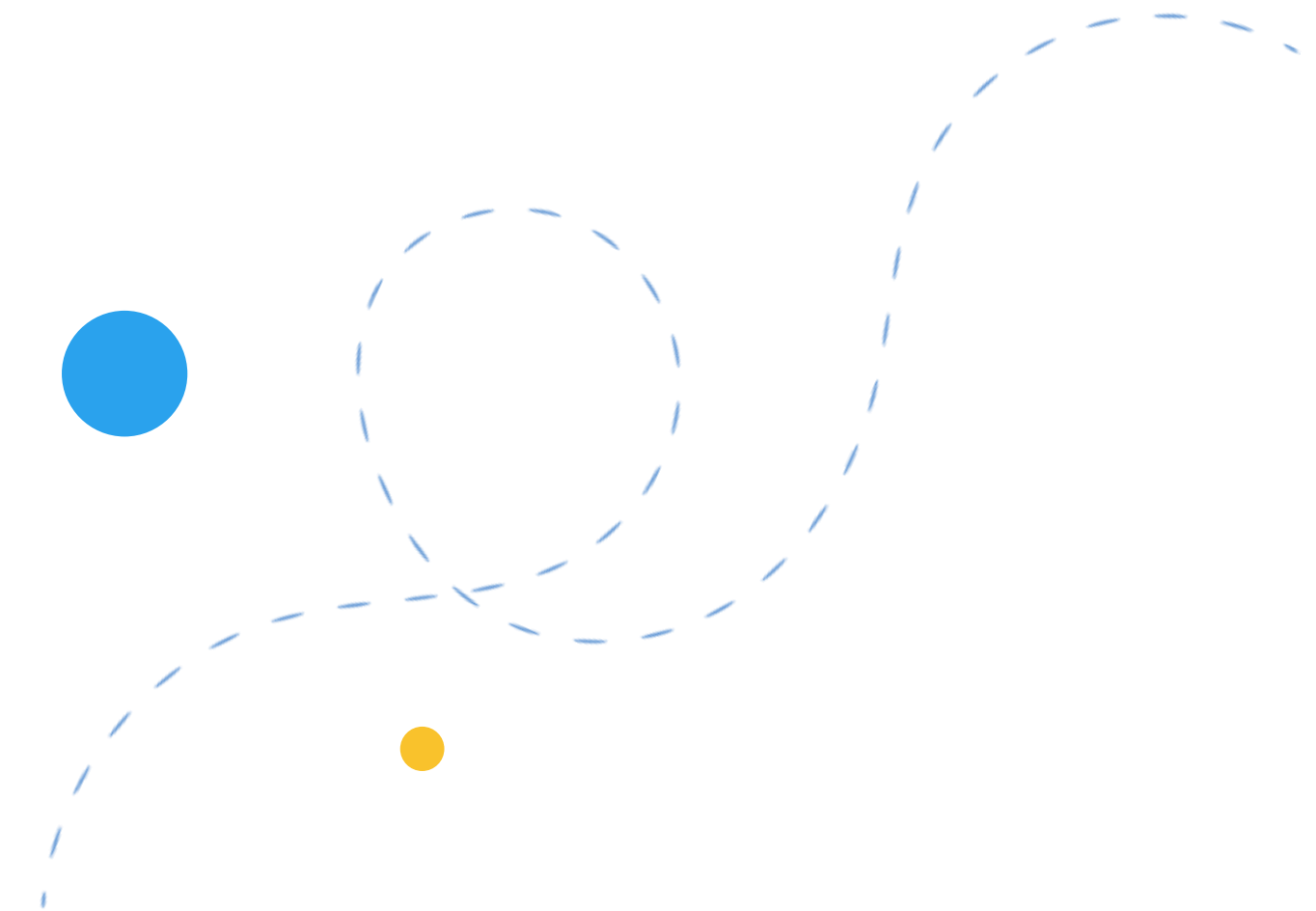Increased ownership, new stakeholders

Research and recommendations for public policy innovation

- Policy team, research team and design thinking team.
- Design thinking methodology and tools instead of conventional research.
- Feeding research with data from non-conventional sources through the application of innovative methodologies and tools.
- Co-designing, prototyping and co-creating to make evidence-based recommendations.

Network of SDG Champions

- SDG 16 Task Force.
- UNRCO in Armenia.

UNDP Armenia's non-traditional financing mechanisms for development

Innovative financing mechanisms and impact investment ecosystem development to attract private capital and action for the SDGs:

- Private-sector funds as seed capital for public policy innovation and public service reform programs (MTS Armenia telecommunication company)
- Investments in technology-driven SDG-oriented ventures (Tech4SDGs Impact Fund)
- Market intelligence product to attract foreign investment (SDG Investment Map)
- Social impact bonds, green bonds, diaspora bonds, fintech incubator/ accelerator

THANK YOU!

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