

Insurance regulators' role in consumer data risk protection

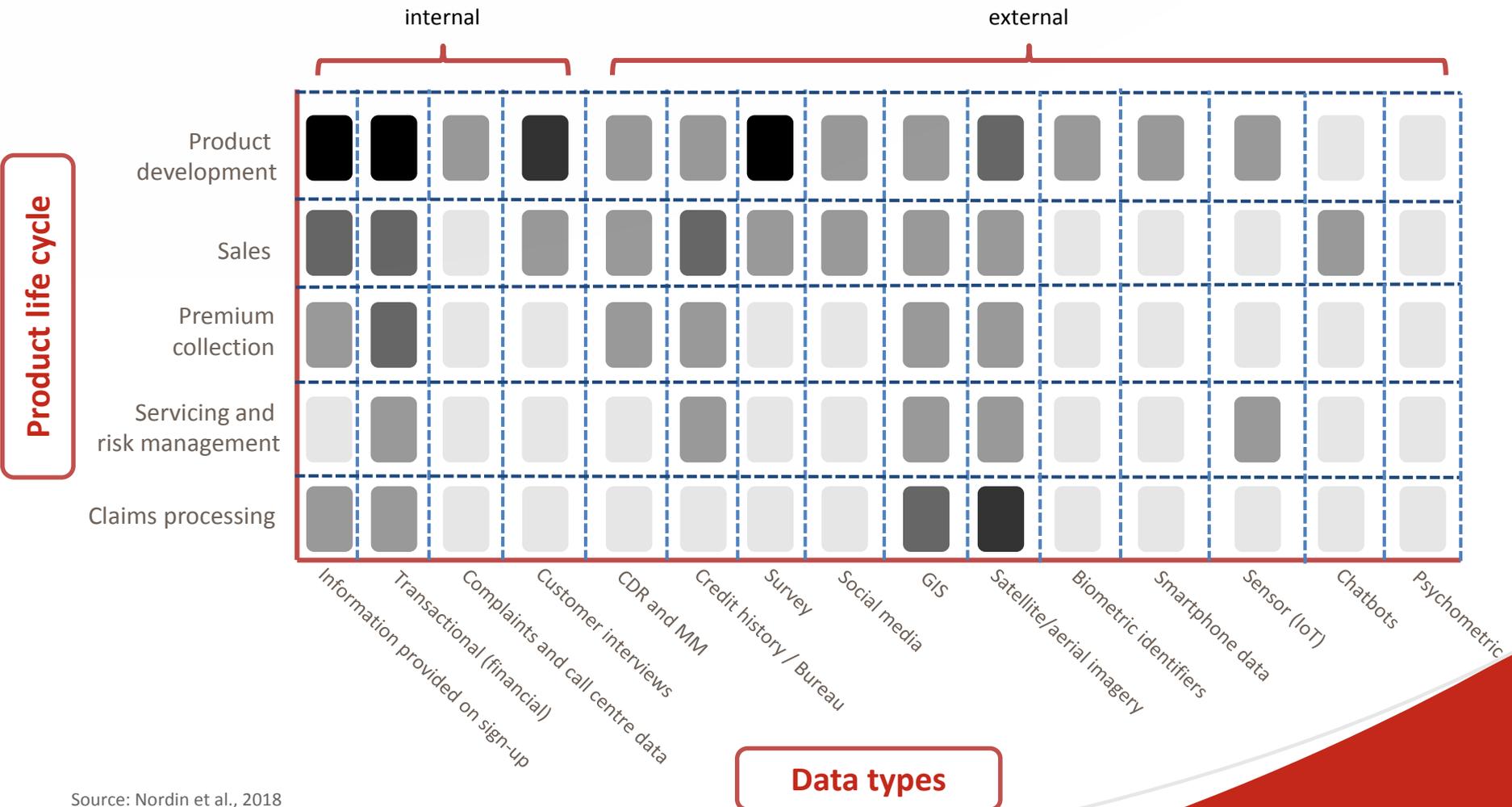
Stefanie Zinsmeyer | May 2018

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Technology has allowed businesses to better understand and serve consumers through the collection and analysis of big data.

Data types currently being used through the insurance product life cycle in emerging markets



Source: Nordin et al., 2018

But how to balance the potential value against emerging risks?

Question for regulators: How to act and when to act?

Emerging risks to consumers from data use



Source: Based on AIG, 2013; Armerding, 2017; Isaca, 2012; Newman, 2002; Ovelami, 2014; Uydess et al., 2018

How is this relevant for insurance regulators?

- Substantial number of consumers are unserved, new data can open new markets.
- New data approaches allows more targeted risk pricing – risk pooling breaks down and risks excluding customers.
- Data abuses increasingly prevalent – data privacy, financial loss, reputational loss and manipulation of choice.

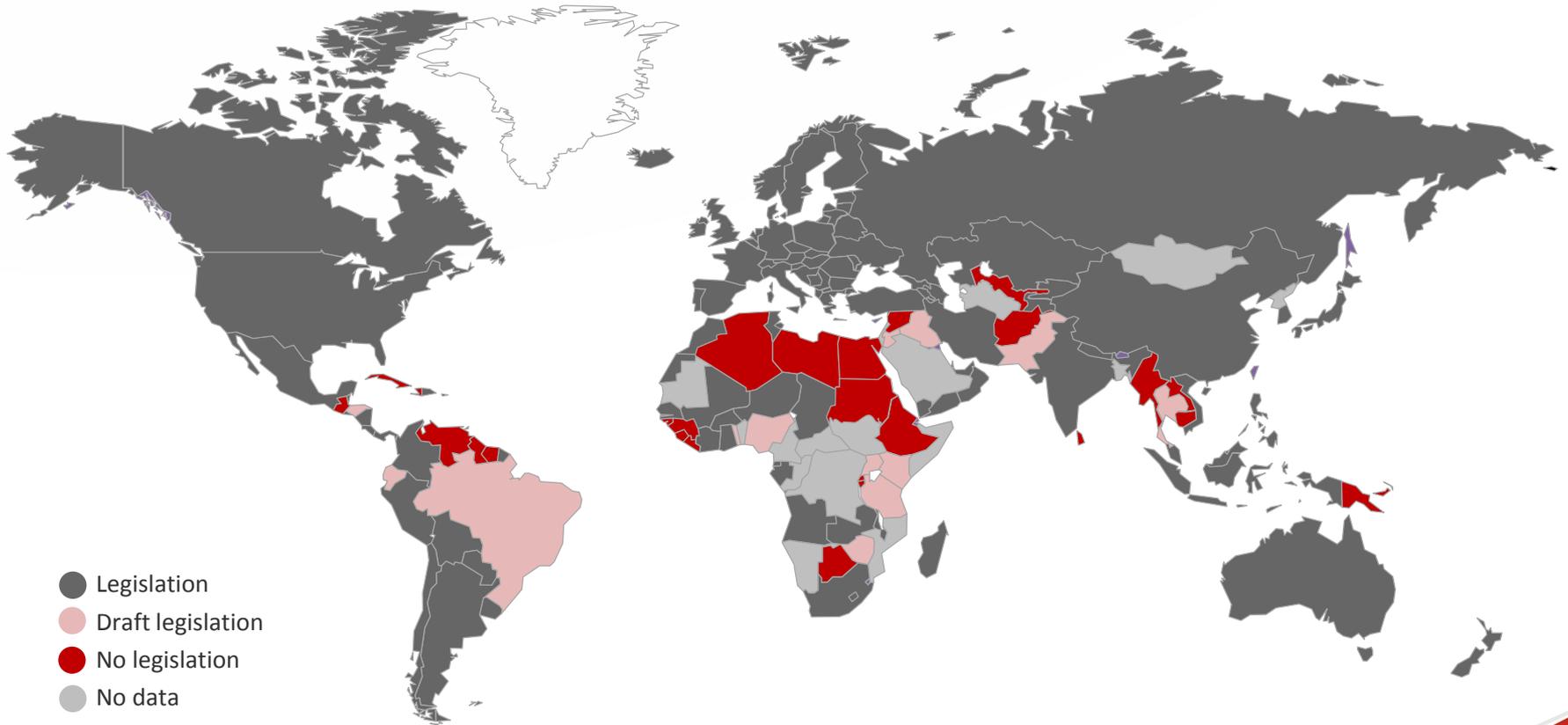
How urgent?

- Insurers already collect and store a lot of sensitive personal information on their customers.
- Partnership and data sharing common and set to further increase, e.g. health wearables, social scoring, social media, location tracking and genome mapping

It is important for regulators to understand and prepare accordingly

Data protection and privacy legislation worldwide

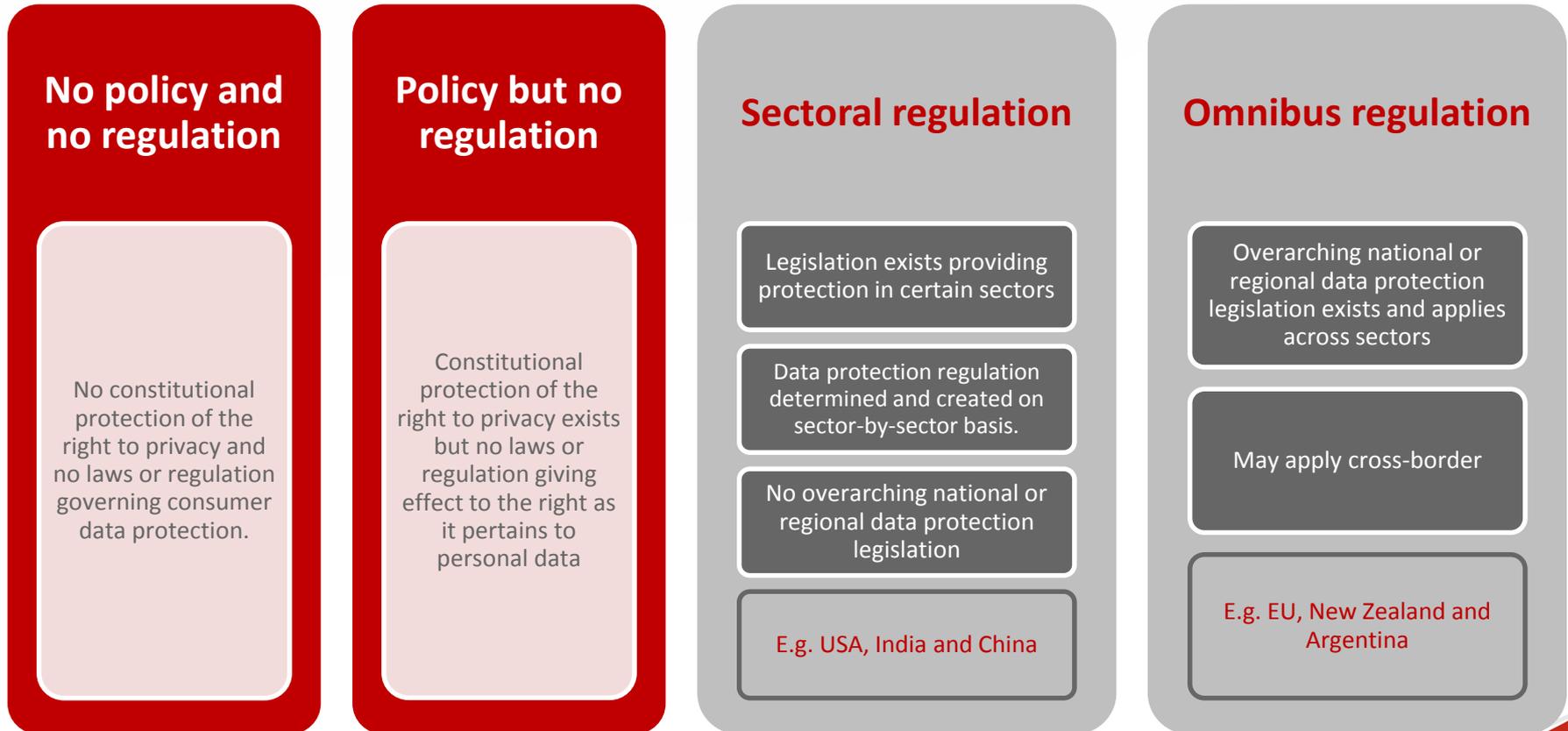
Percentage of UN countries with or without current or pending privacy legislation



Source: UNCTAD 2018

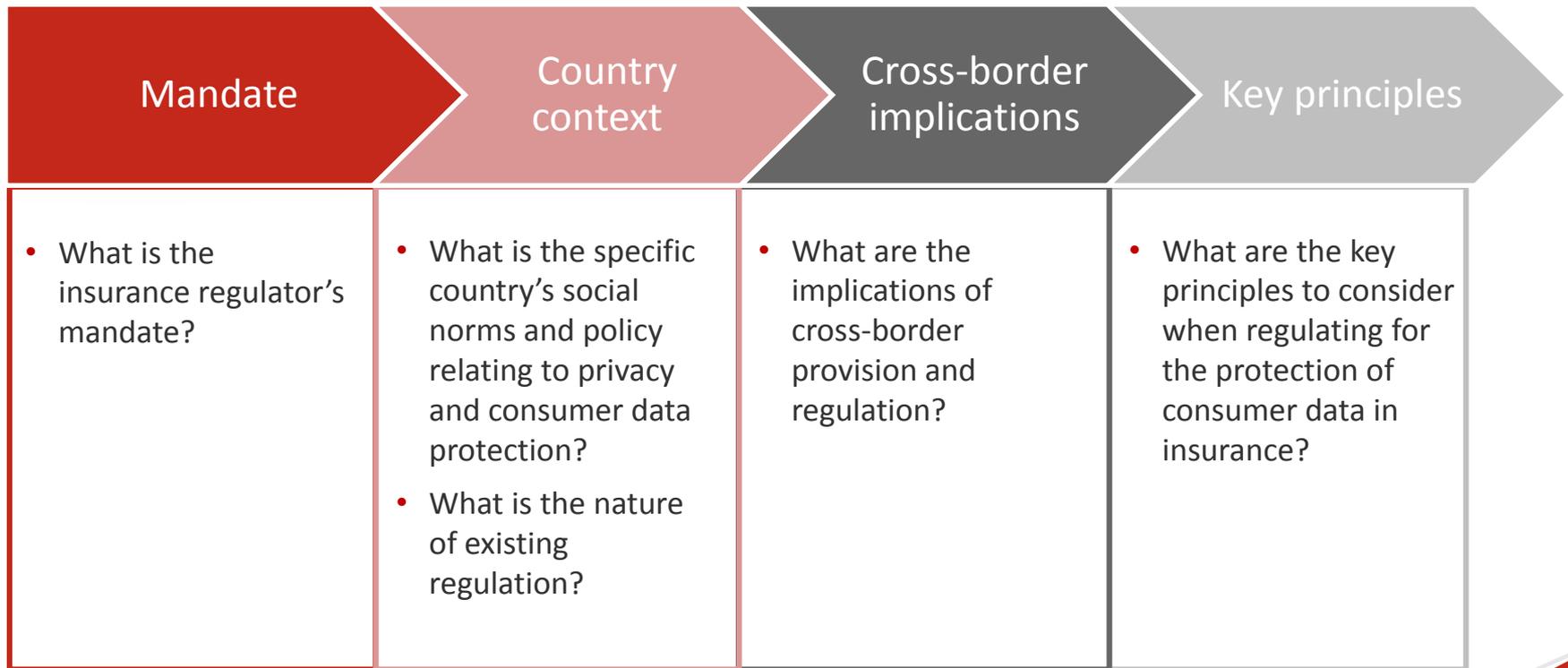
How are countries currently dealing with this?

Data protection regulatory approaches



Countries falling into a particular category may have draft or pending legislation, which once in operation, may change the applicable framework category.

What are the key factors for the insurance regulator to consider?



Key principles

What are the key principles to consider when regulating for the protection of consumer data in insurance?

- *Data-handling requirements* relate to requirements in respect of inter alia the collection, processing and storage of consumer data. Such requirements may include restricting the collection of only certain specific data, only using it for a specific purpose and only storing it for a certain (specified) period.
- *Informed consent requirements* consider the freedom of the consumer (data subject) to give consent and to understand the consequences thereof, and for such consent to be requested in clear and plain language.
- *Defining personal and sensitive data.* Many jurisdictions distinguish between personal and sensitive data, often having more onerous requirements or putting in place greater restrictions on the use of sensitive data in order to protect consumers. A common distinction made between the two includes the consideration of personal data as data with which a person can be identified, whereas data is considered sensitive where the distribution thereof may lead to harm or, more specifically, discrimination.
- *Reasonable use* refers to the use of consumer data only in the context of the use of the data for which consent was specifically provided, for the purpose of which the consent specified, and to the extent to which consent was given.
- *Security mechanisms* include the protection of consumer data by means of, for example, deanonymisation and encryption. In this way, consumers should not be able to be identified by their data in the event of a breach.

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