

AUTONOMY

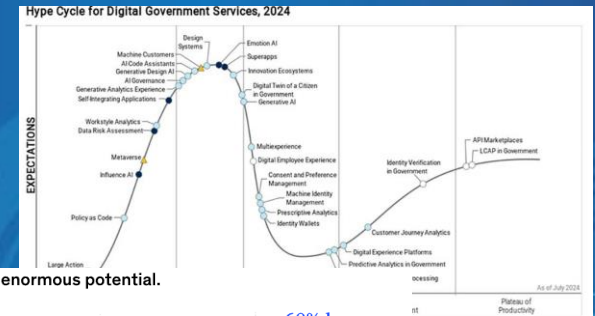
RI.  
SE

DEPENDENCY

JOHAN LINÅKER, RISE/LUND UNIVERSITY

**Digital Sovereignty through  
Open Source**  
Enabling Europe's strategic opportunity

# Technology is accelerating, as is expectations



Digital public services have enormous potential.

**24/7 accessibility**  
even during a pandemic



**~50% less time spent**  
interacting with public administration



**>50% lower costs**  
for companies when interacting with the public administration



**~60% less case-handling effort**  
through automated processing

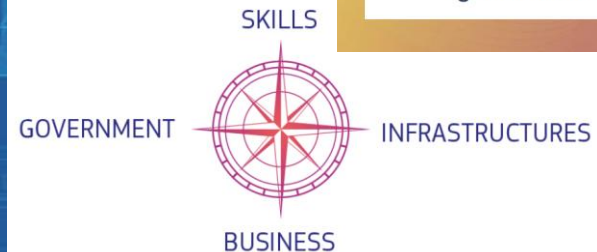


Source: German National Regulatory Control Council

McKinsey & Company

A Europe fit for the digital age

Empowering people with a new generation of technologies



**While we are  
digitally cuffed  
by dependencies**





# Fueled by geopolitical cracks and regionalisation



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

As the President of the United States, I will stand up to Countries that attack our incredible American Tech Companies. Digital Taxes, Digital Services Legislation, and Digital Markets Regulations are all designed to harm, or discriminate against, American Technology. They also, outrageously, give a complete pass to China's largest Tech Companies. This must end, and end NOW! With this TRUTH, I put all Countries with Digital Taxes, Legislation, Rules, or Regulations, on notice that unless these discriminatory actions are removed, I, as President of the United States, will impose substantial additional Tariffs on that Country's Exports to the U.S.A., and institute Export restrictions on our Highly Protected Technology and Chips. America, and American Technology Companies, are neither the "piggy bank" nor the "doormat" of the World any longer. Show respect to America and our amazing Tech Companies or, consider the consequences! Thank you for your attention to this matter.

DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

8.15k ReTruths 33.2k Likes

Aug 26, 2025, 2:31 AM

# Europe's Digital Leaders Call for "Tech Sovereignty"

The anti-protectionist, pro-tech D9+ alliance switches sides as Europe debates targeting US digital services with tariffs and other measures.

## Dutch parliament calls for end to dependence on US software companies

By Tol

March

- 80% total spending on cloud software and services for professional use in Europe went to' American companies, representing a volume of 265 billion'euros.

## Digital Sovereignty, Security, and Digital Innovation in Germany



Dirk Schrödter  
Minister und Chef der Staatskanzlei des Landes Schleswig-Holstein

### ARGUMENT

An expert's point of view on a current event.

## Europe Must Avoid Digital Colony

The EuroStack is the continent's last chance for tech

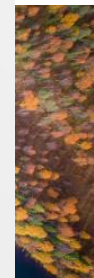
### Digital sovereignty: less dependency, more European integration

The coalition partners are focusing strongly on digital sovereignty – an approach that could have far-reaching consequences for companies.

- Building European integrated and resilient value chains:** "We are creating European integrated and resilient value chains for key industries, from raw materials and chips to hardware and software." This is intended to reduce dependence on non-European manufacturers – both from China and the USA.
- Strengthening open interfaces and standards:** "We ensure our digital sovereignty: we define open interfaces and open standards across all levels and systematically promote open source [...]." This is a reaction to the increasing dependence on proprietary systems, which are causing huge difficulties in the context of digital transformation and have had an enormous braking effect. With regard to open source, two options are discussed in the document – either "define ambitious targets" or specifically "achieve an open source share of 50% by 2029" for the IT budget.
- Exclusion of untrustworthy providers:** "We will exclude untrustworthy providers with legal certainty in future." This refers primarily to critical infrastructures and is likely a reference to the debate surrounding providers in the 5G network.

LA DÉPENDANCE TECHNOLOGIQUE  
AUX SOFTWARES & CLOUD SERVICES  
AMÉRICAINS : UNE ESTIMATION DES  
CONSÉQUENCES ÉCONOMIQUES  
EN EUROPE

ASTERES

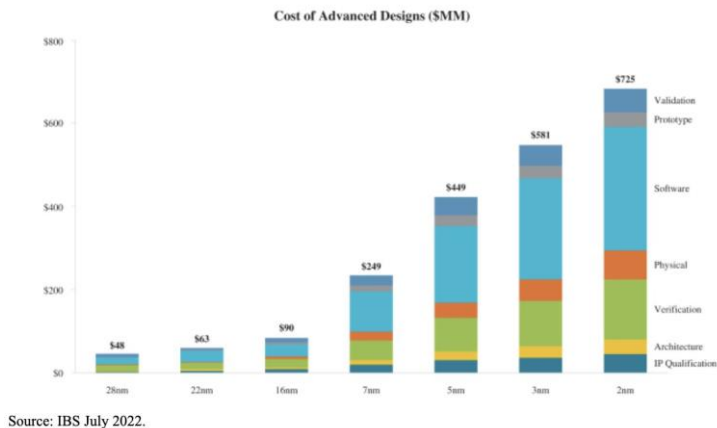


alternative  
abwehr

work agreement with  
n solutions" such as



# Sovereignty is a full-stack problem



Hardware Software

Applications/Workload

Operating System

Kernel

Drivers

Firmware

Devices/Machines

Boards

Chips/Components/SOCs

ISA

Microarchitecture

Tools, frameworks & infrastructure

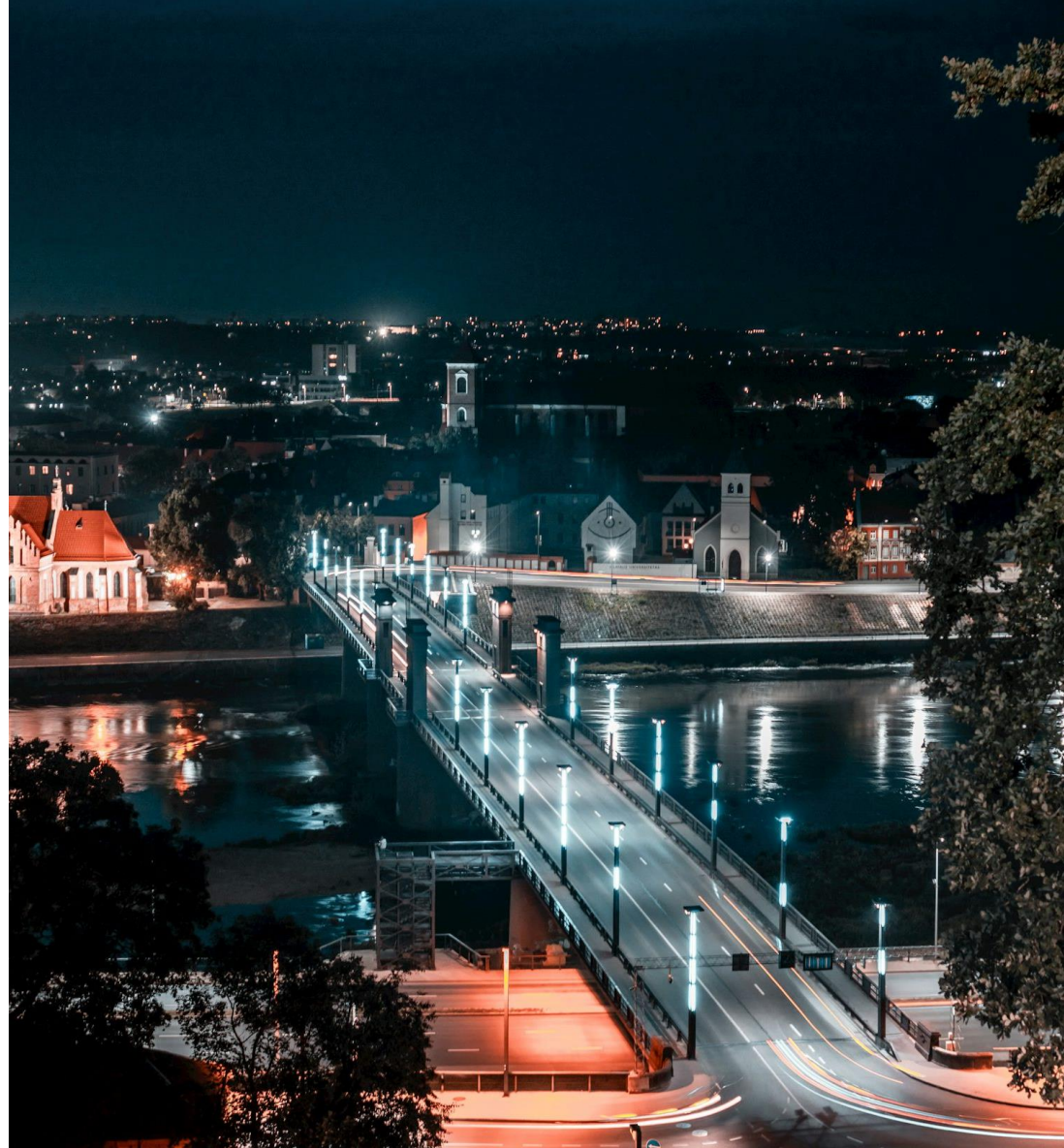




<< Further reading [1]

**All parts of the  
infrastructure  
are equally  
critical**

**Physical + Digital**





<< Further reading [1]

**Digital  
Sovereignty  
=  
Open  
Strategic  
Autonomy**





**Open  
Strategic  
Autonomy  
requires  
control**

**Control  
requires  
investments  
and  
contributions**

**Investments  
and  
contributions  
requires  
capabilities**



<< Further reading [2]

# Public sector suffers of the Comfort syndrome



# It's a We-problem



Høring i Udvalget for Digitalisering og It om Danmarks digitale suverænitet

4. **Political leadership:** courage to act
5. **Understanding:** sovereignty requires systemic changes and not just technical replacements



**Need to start  
growing  
courage and  
collaborate**



**Open as a toolbox for  
enabling collaboration**

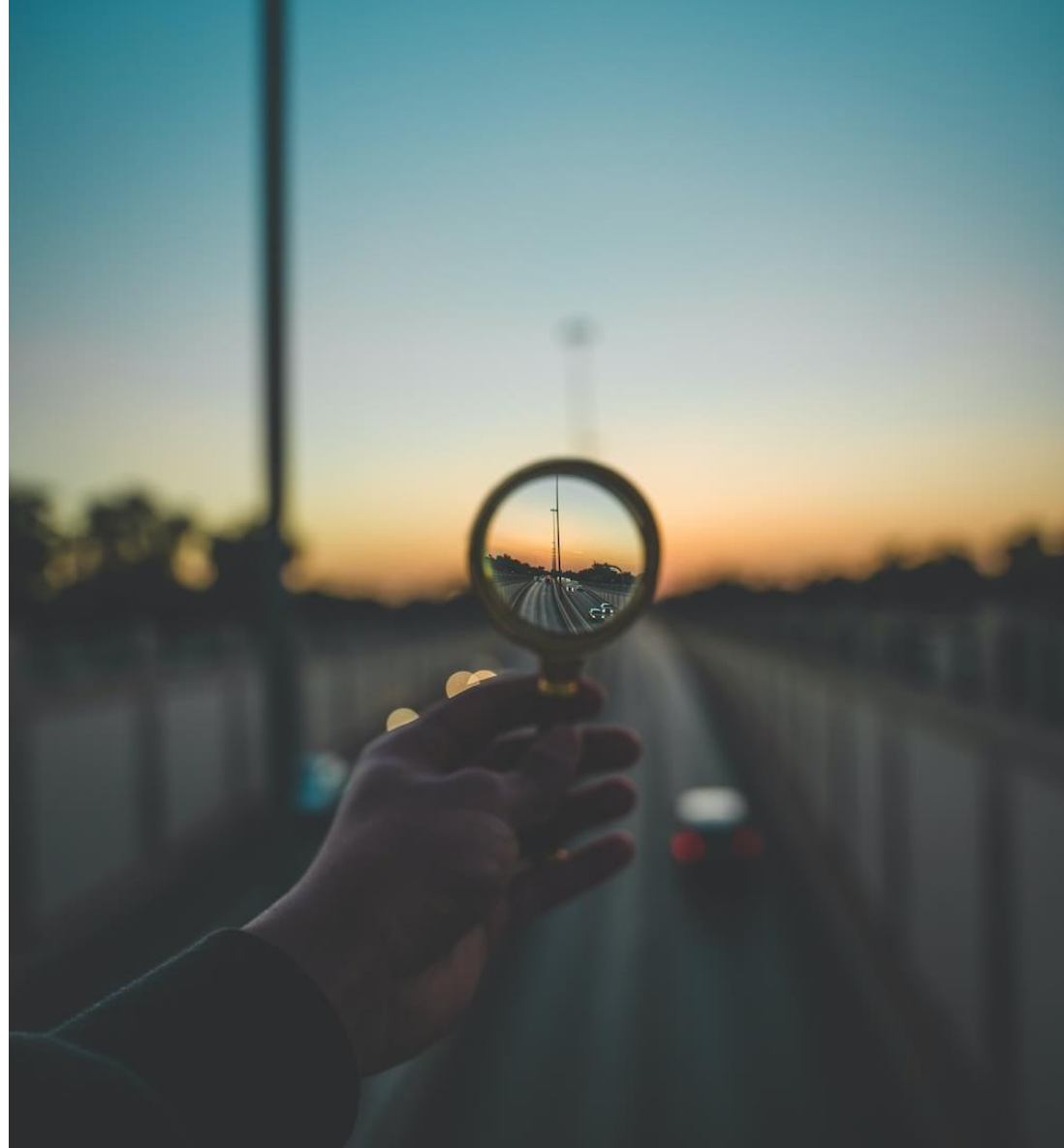
**{Software, Standards,  
AI, Hardware...}**





<< Further reading [3]

# **Clear intent and direction needed from policy makers**









<< Further reading [3]

# **Support structures needed to enable policy goals**



Photo by Nguyễn Hiệp | <https://unsplash.com/photos/grayscale-photo-of-crane-near-building-mvYyx02rjk>

# Enter <Open Source Program Offices>



## TODO Group

“Centre of competency for an organisation’s open source operations and structure”



## OpenForum Europe

“An institutional organisational construct that supports and accelerates the consumption, creation, and application of open source software”

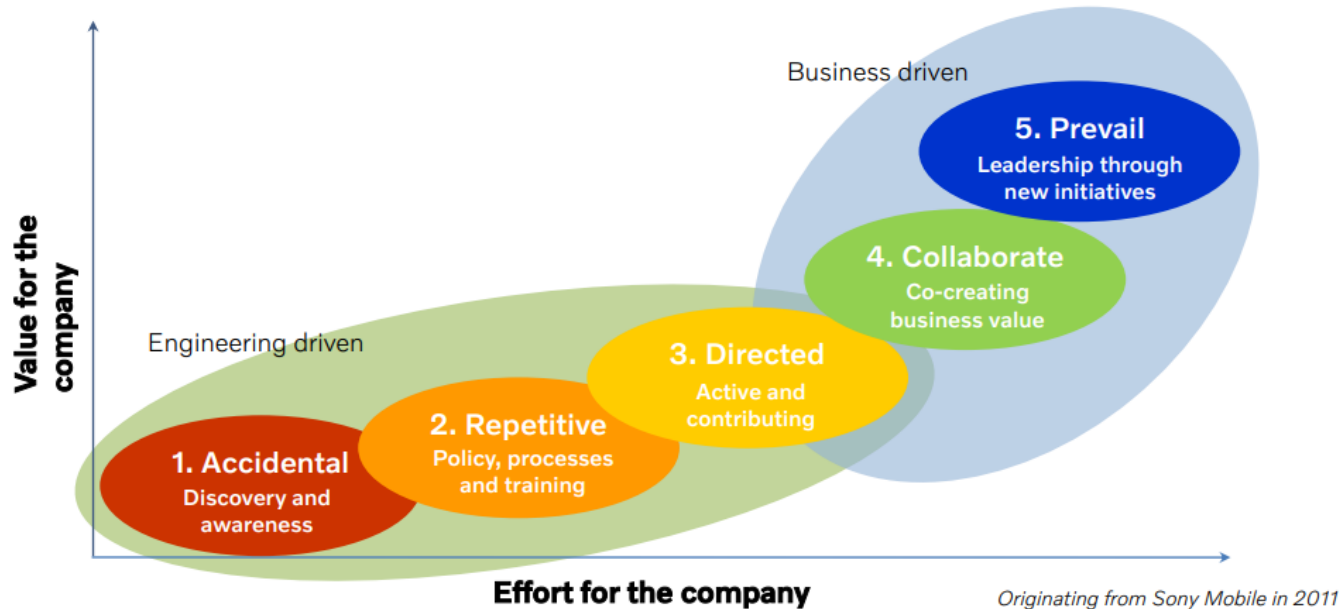


## OSPO Alliance

“A cross-functional team to help define and steer an organisation’s open source management strategy and organisational readiness”



# Helps mature the organizational readiness





<< Further reading [5]

# Public Sector Open Source - same but different



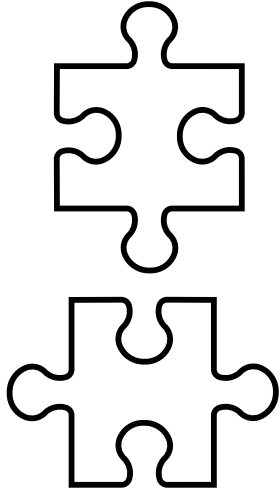
# **Vehicles for Cultural and Organisational change**





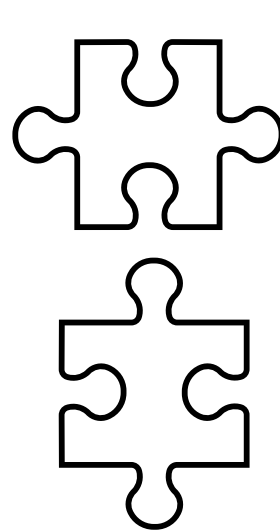
# Interface and means of growing common capabilities

National  
government  
OSPOs



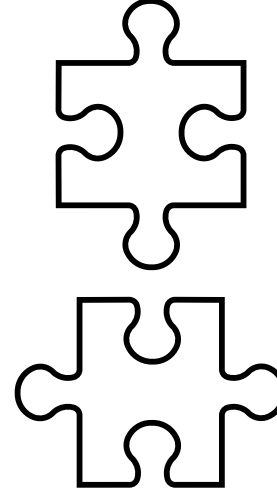
Association-  
based OSPOs

Regional  
government  
OSPOs



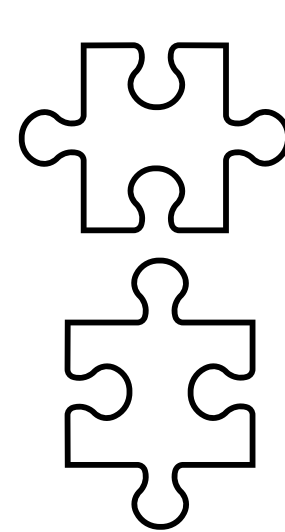
Academic  
OSPOs

Local  
government  
OSPOs



Trans-national  
OSPOs

Institution-  
centric OSPOs



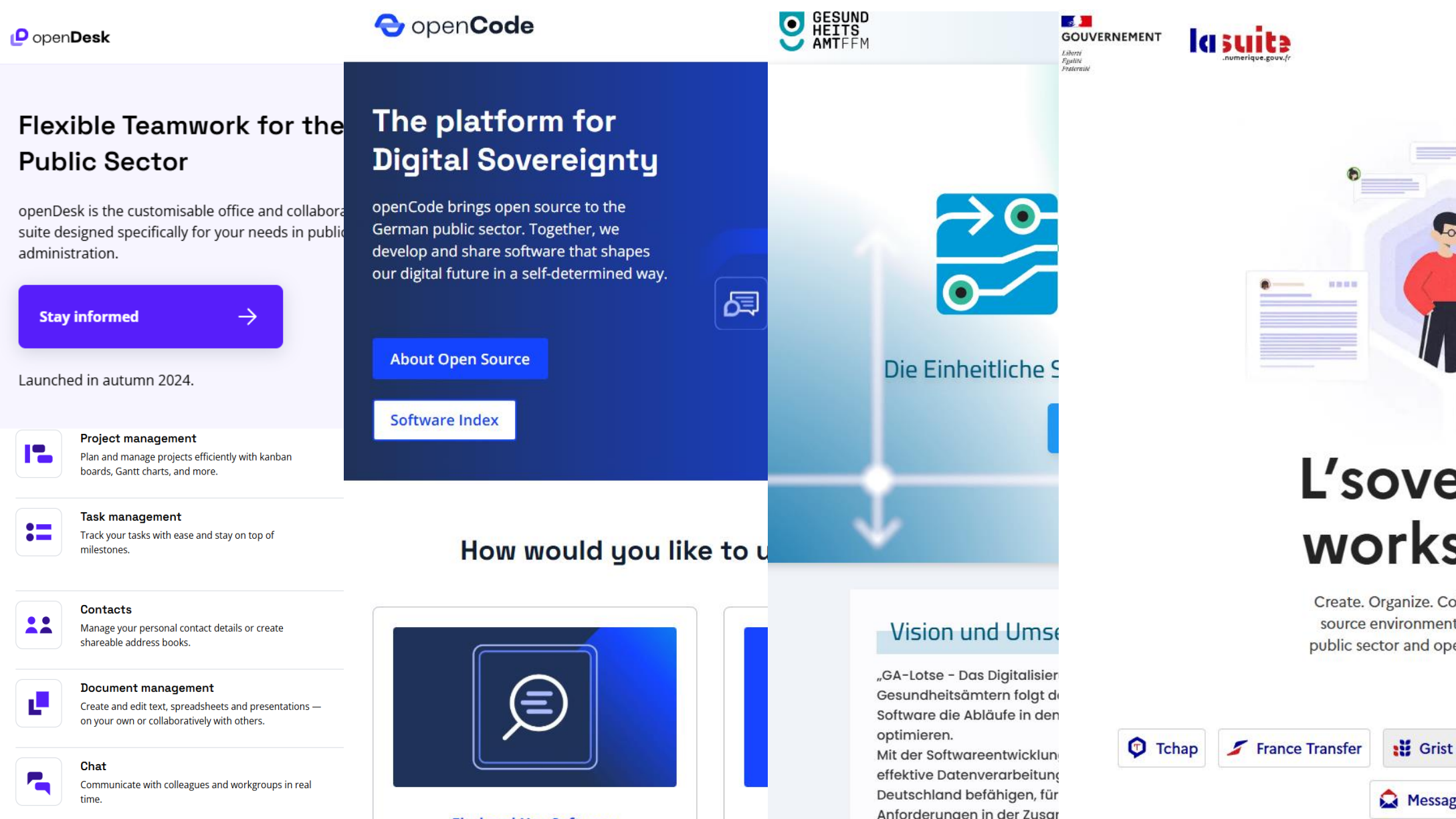
Civil-society-  
based OSPOs



<< Further reading [3]

# Promotion and findability critical for enabling reuse





# Flexible Teamwork for the Public Sector

openDesk is the customisable office and collaboration suite designed specifically for your needs in public administration.

Stay informed →

Launched in autumn 2024.

- Project management**  
Plan and manage projects efficiently with kanban boards, Gantt charts, and more.
- Task management**  
Track your tasks with ease and stay on top of milestones.
- Contacts**  
Manage your personal contact details or create shareable address books.
- Document management**  
Create and edit text, spreadsheets and presentations — on your own or collaboratively with others.
- Chat**  
Communicate with colleagues and workgroups in real time.

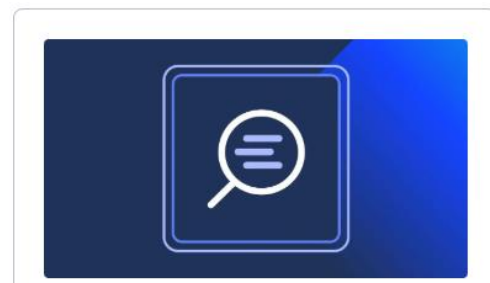
# The platform for Digital Sovereignty

openCode brings open source to the German public sector. Together, we develop and share software that shapes our digital future in a self-determined way.

About Open Source

Software Index

How would you like to use



### Vision und Umse

„GA-Lotse – Das Digitalisier  
Gesundheitsämtern folgt d  
Software die Abläufe in den  
optimieren.  
Mit der Softwareentwicklun  
effektive Datenverarbeitung  
Deutschland befähigen, für  
Anforderungen in der Zusar



# L'sove works

Create. Organize. Co  
source environment  
public sector and ope



<< Further reading [8]

**Need for  
increased  
public  
recognition and  
awareness**

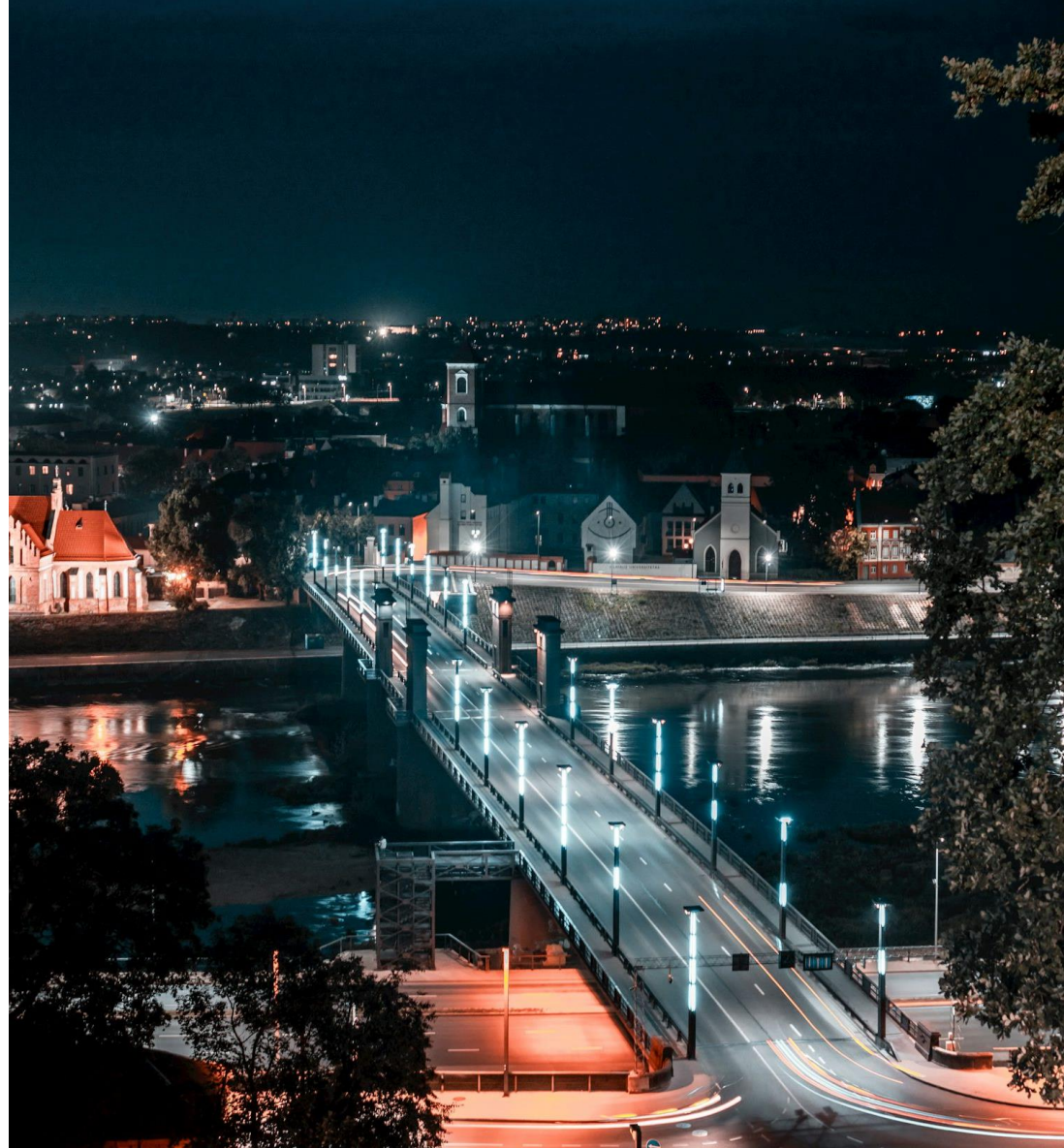






<< Further reading [1]

# Robustness and security of common infrastructure critical





<< Further reading [7]

# **Sustainability = Collective responsibility**

## **Need to de/centralise maintenance with a push & pull model**

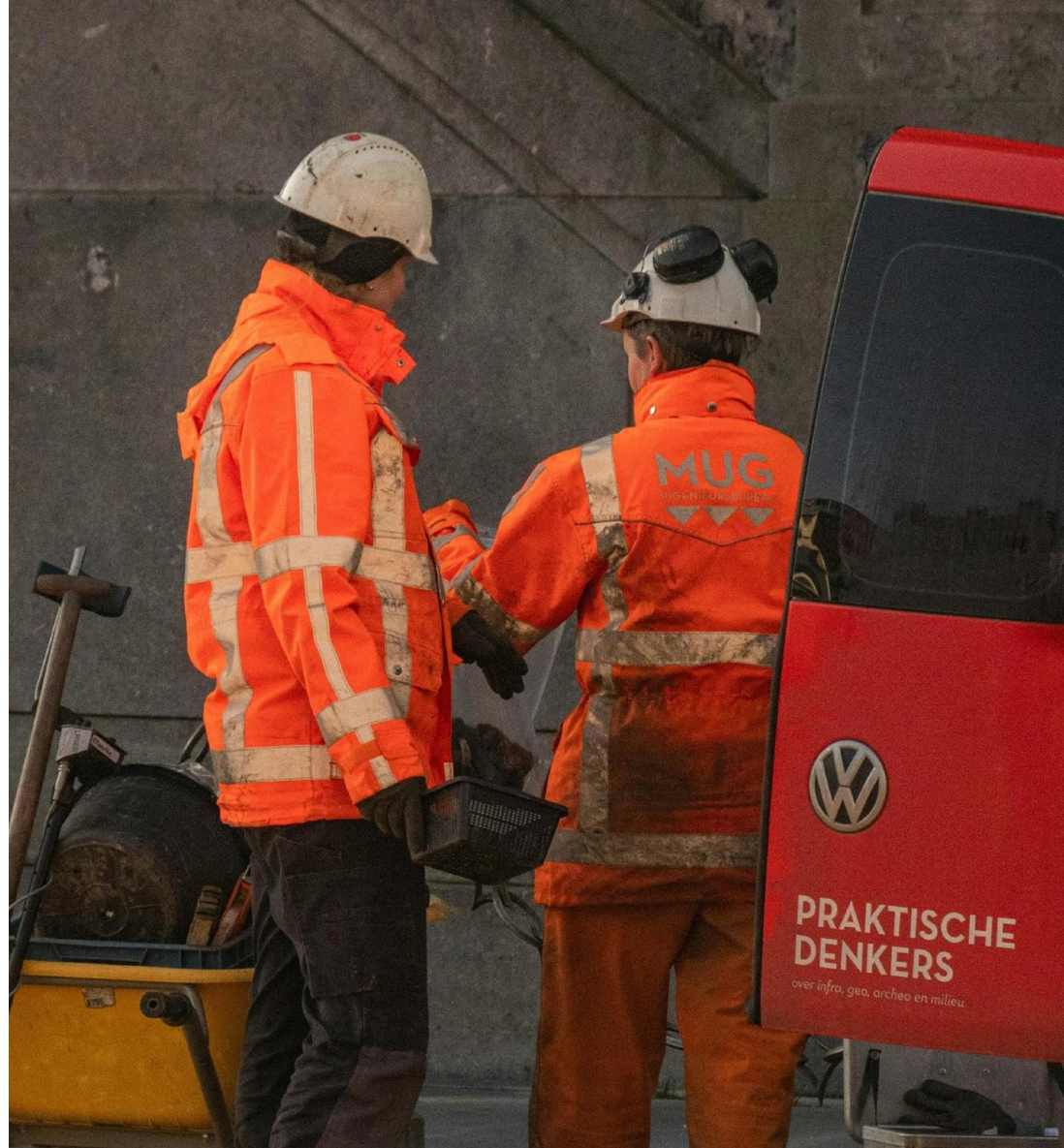
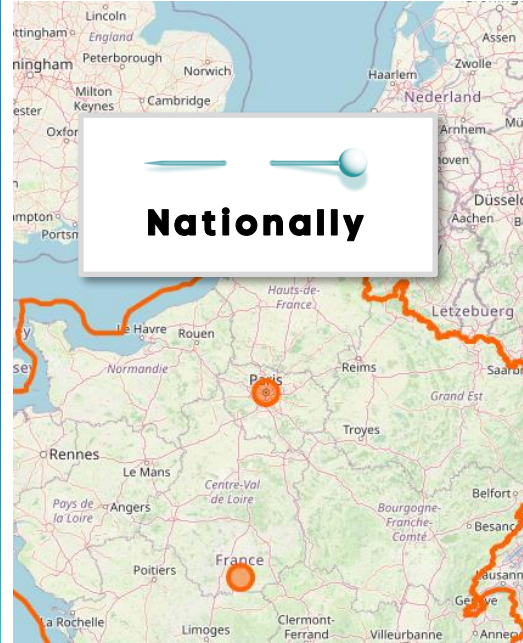


Photo by Denise Jans | <https://unsplash.com/photos/a-couple-of-men-standing-next-to-a-red-bus-4eue2g87b8>

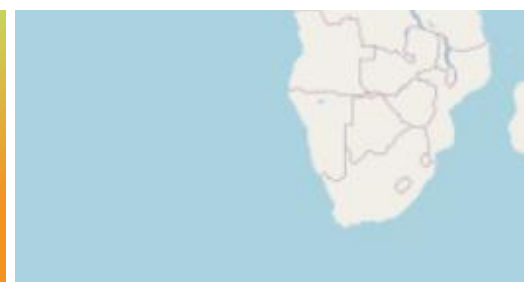
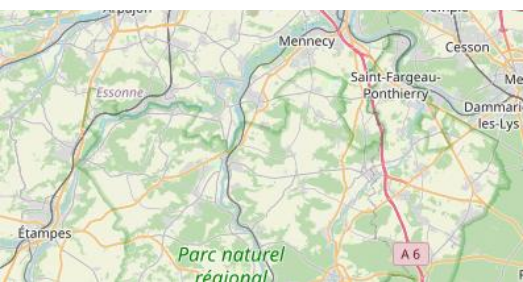


# Sustainable vendors = Sustainable software

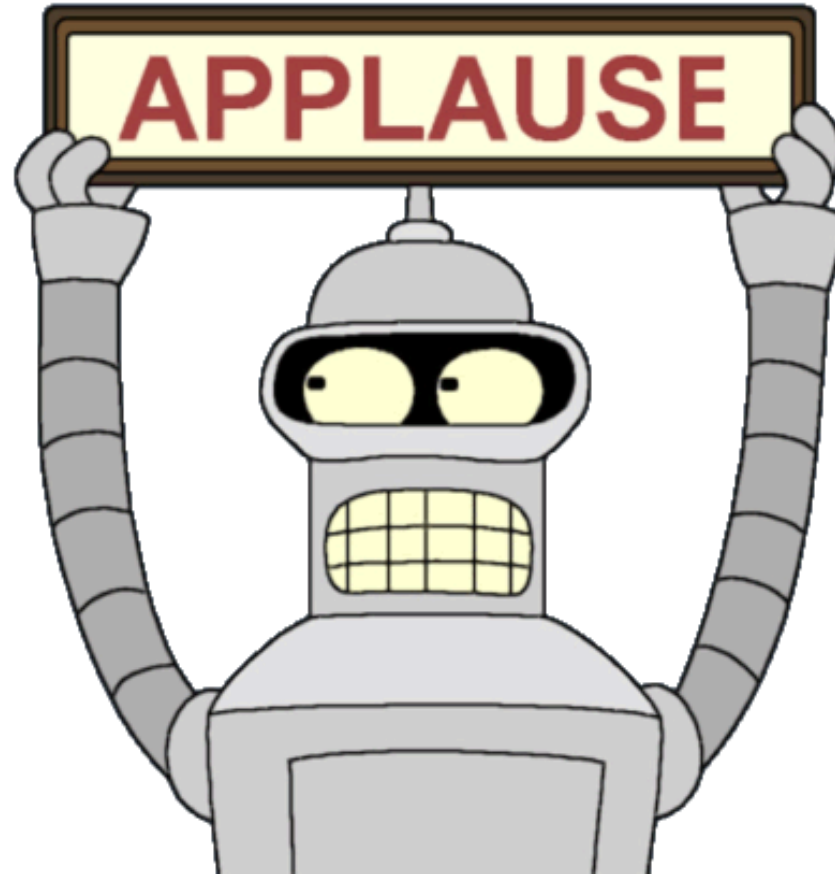




**Open Strategic Autonomy requires  
Open Collaboration, Share/reuse, and growing  
Common capabilities**







# Further reading

- [1] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/building-sovereignty-the-open-way/>
- [2] <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2409.01118>
- [3] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/report-software-reuse-through-open-source-software-in-public-sector/>
- [4] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/public-sector-open-source-program-offices/>
- [5] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/public-sector-open-source-software-projects-how-is-development-organized/>
- [6] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/sustaining-maintenance-labor-for-open-source-software-projects-through-human-Infrastructure-Copy/>
- [7] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/health-check-ups-on-open-source-software-projects/>
- [8] <https://europeanopensource.academy/>